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ARMY LETTERS

H. N. Snow. S. W. Snow, Ed. H. Hazen,

tee them.

em—because
f in them.

1861

31st

New Creek, Va. Aug.

Dear Mother, Father, Sarah, & Henry.

I have fund a little time to write, so I am going to improve it. We left Columbus about half-past-six Tuesday evening. We rode all night and arrived in Bellair about two o'clock in the morning. We got out of the cars and went into a warehouse, and I laid on a pile of bags until morning, in the morning I went up town and bought me a cup of tea, then went back to the warehouse, About eight o'clock. we were ferried across the Ohio to the "Old Dominion" there we waited about two hours, then we took the cars again the

Baltimore & Ohio R.R., and arrived in Grafton about three oclock in the afternoon. Well we all got ou of the cars. There was three of us sick, so the captain took us into a hotel close by, and we sat down and waited until the captain came after us again, the he took us over to the hospital. We had to wait there some time before we could get anyone to show us where we were to sleep that night. I had to sleep in the open air, out in a varandah like. Everything around the hospital was dirty and filthy, and the hospital was filled with all kinds of diseases, Myron Keith was there he left Elyria in Howards company, His father lives up on Murray Ridge. Well one night in that place was enough for me so the next morning I went over to our camp and stayed all day.

In the afternoon I went down to the river "Valley River" and had a good bath,

About two o'clock four companies received orders to pack up to go to [illegible] Creek, near Cumberland. Our company was one of them. There was some working among the boys for a while now I can tell you. Well they wanted me to stay behind in the hospital, but I told them I wouldn't do it. I told them I would stand my chances of getting well down here, so we started from Grafton about Six o'clock, and and arrived here about three o'c. The pickets had just came in and reported that the enemy was about two miles from us. So our boys all filed out loaded their guns and got into line and waited expecting an attack every minute, but no enemy came, when they heard the cars come in they knew that it was

the directions. Write soon. much love to all

Your Affec Son & Bro
Horace

4

reinforcements, so they turned around and left. You see this was a secession town and a company was sent down here to take care of them, so these secession troops thought they would come down here and just take this company but when they heard our engine whistle they knew it was an extra train, so they knew pretty well about what was on board. We left the next morning (yesterday). I went over to the hospital (it had been a secession house) there is a nice orchard and garden around the house but no fruit nor vegetables now. Every thing is beaten. Well I staid there yesterday and last night and this morning I feel quite strong. I have had my things brought up to camp and I am going to stay in camp after this for I can get nothing to eat there [illegible] so that I [illegible] twice a day or

two. I am writing this with Mr. Dickinson's ink on a little box. I went down to the river and took a bath this morning. I feel nice. I had some of your tomatoes and apple sauce. [illegible] you must practice [illegible] for I am [illegible] to [illegible] about New Years. Don't worry about me for I shall be all right in a day or two. I sent my Testament [illegible] day. Nearly all of our company have gone out about [illegible] to guard a bridge [illegible] I was [illegible] so I could see [illegible] them. Tell my [illegible] that [illegible] You must all write soon. Direct your letters to Horace S. Snow, Co. [illegible] Col. Allen's [illegible] Capt. [illegible] to be forwarded [illegible] and they will [illegible] our letters to us wherever we may be. now don't forget.

[illegible] [illegible] March 9th

[1862]

Dear Friend

I received your welcome letter last Saturday, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] on another march. Saturday morning we started for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 15 miles [illegible]

[illegible] steady [illegible] of the first years [illegible] [illegible] the dilapidated [illegible] in a fine breeze [illegible] the American flag. It was a solemn scene, but it was [illegible] standing with presented arms for nearly two hours. I like [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] regiment [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] commander. How is it about the boots? These are getting to be [illegible] and it isn't fun at all to march [illegible] [illegible]. Be sure to have the [illegible] good and thick and well nailed.

[illegible] till [illegible] as a tactic,
as we suffered for [illegible], I
believe I have had any till we
and the 4th Ohio had their rations
had to supplied the balance. At
five miles from here two roads diverge
one a turnpike going to the right
and the other a rough mountainous
one, (the one we took when we went
to Bloomery Gap) going to the left,
both meeting again in Bloomery
Gap. The mountain road was
the ~~nearest~~ shortest by four miles, but the
artillery could not be taken over
it. So five batteries of artillery,
two regiments of cavalry, and the
4th and 8th Ohio Infantry, took
the turnpike. Six regiments of infan-
try, four of cavalry, took the moun-
tain road. About eleven o'clock we ar-
rived within three miles of the Gap
and a mile of the Big Cacapon.
Here we halted until the 4th
regt. (which was ahead) could

build a bridge across the river.
About noon, Sunday, it com-
menced snowing hard. So Col.
[illegible] moved us into the woods.
Here we went at work, and with
boughs, poles, and our rubber
blankets, & we soon had them made
quite comfortable. Early the [illegible]
[illegible] got them finished and were
drinking coffee, when [illegible]
came in informing that Winchester
had been evacuated, and we had
been ordered back to [illegible].
And next morning at about 6 o'c
or 8am, we took the back track
and arrived the about nine o'clock
Sunday evening. I met friends
Lieut. Powell, Wm. Wilson & John
Bilbox and Louis Smith,
the first from [illegible]
[illegible], and the latter from the gun-
squad of [illegible]. The other
informed that Jim Edwards had
died about five o'clock Sunday

station. This death probably had something to do with our relation to this place. Yesterday the entire force in the place and vicinity, were formed in close order near the station, and amid the solemn discharge of artillery minute guns, the body was conducted from his headquarters to the cars. Col. Carroll was one of the pall bearers. He will feel his loss very much, for he was a brave and efficient general. How would you like to see sixteen regiments of infantry, two batteries of artillery, and no end of cavalry, in close order and in as small a space as they could be got into? Well it was a grand sight. Then the solemn music of the bands playing the Dead March, &c, the long procession with arms drooping, arms reversed, muffled drums, and the

Camp [illegible]
[illegible] June 9th [illegible]

Dear Friends,

It has now been a long time since I have written you a letter. The reason is because we have not stopped long enough in one place to write a letter and get it started. It has now been two weeks since we received any mail. The last letter I received was a letter from you at Fredericksburg, May 23rd which I answered the same day. We have just been told that a mail will go out tomorrow morning or maybe [illegible] the [illegible]

on short rations since leaving Fredericksburg, some days drawing nothing but fresh meat. For nearly a week now we have lived on flour and fresh meat. The flour we make into pan-cakes and gravy. The pancakes are made of nothing but flour, water and salt and consequently have a tendency to be pretty heavy. But we get some things that Uncle Sam's Commissary does not furnish, such as milk, honey, fresh pork, a lamb once in a while, are at work writing letters, some on their knees, some on the bottom of tin plates, and some on bits of boards. This is the first pleasant day we have passed without being on the march for about two weeks; it has been before nearly continual. When I wrote you last we were at Fredericksburg, Va. Friday the 23d, our Division was reviewed by the President, Secy. Stanton, Gen. McDowell & Staff and others; I had a good view of Lincoln, though it was getting nearly dark. Saturday I intended to have gone over to the 6th Wisconsin and see [illegible] [illegible], but it rained nearly all day and I had a letter to send so I did not see him. We will probably come together again before long. Sunday, the 25th, we left Fredericksburg, to go back to Front Royal again, to keep Jackson from driving Banks into Ohio.

Tuesday we passed through Cattletts Station where we turned and followed the R.R. Wednesday we passed through the ever famous Manassas Junction and a most lonely and desolate looking place it was. It is a plain for miles around; the high [illegible] pointing out of their long line of burnt ruins of barracks, kitchens, storehouses &c all showing that the [illegible] [illegible] at [illegible] the [illegible] one that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. At Manassas we turned and [illegible] followed the R.R. towards Front Royal & Strasburg. Thursday night we halted for the night in the woods [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in the Blue Ridge, and about five [illegible] [illegible] the Shenandoah [illegible] [illegible] passed through it, and taken it from [illegible]. We arrived at Front Royal about noon of Friday. The enemy had a brief engagement with the enemy's rear guard at the bridges over the Shenandoah about a mile east of Front Royal. Friday night we had a very heavy thunderstorm, and as we had neither tents, overcoats or blankets we got completely soaked and did not have a very good night's rest. Saturday I received a letter and an [illegible] from you (the letter containing the remainder of the [illegible] of stamps) for Mr Boughton (I didn't think of this one when I said I hadn't received any since leaving Fredericksburg.) Sunday afternoon we left Front Royal for Luray. Reached Luray about ten o'clock Tuesday morning. Wednesday rained all day long. Thursday Brigade marched six miles to the bridge over the Shenandoah, opposite Thornton's Gap. Yesterday we marched back again. To day we have had a good deal to do in our camp and doing little jobs of mending, washing, writing &c. We have been

green currants and gooseberries f[illegible]
the citizens all around here. [illegible]
Perhaps you will think that it is
wrong to take such things from
citizens but when you know as much
about them as we do you would blame
us. When the rebel soldiers were
through this country the citizens would
set up and bake all night [illegible]
purpose to accommodate them
rebel soldiers, but now when we come
into the place we [illegible] offer
to pay them a good price for things
[illegible] they wouldn't think of it
[illegible] all they can do to take
for themselves. They charge ten
cents a quart for milk and we
can't buy butter. Since we passed
through this place on our way to Fred
ericksburg, two citizens were taken
and [illegible] the woods (by citizens) and

while about, the [illegible] soldiers close at the [illegible]
and then go to bed [illegible] late [illegible] to-night.

shot, and left in the woods eight days without burial, simply because they espoused union sentiment. Now when the whole county is peopled by such men as that can you blame us for confiscating little necessaries, at which our officers uphold us in it. We took quite a number of prisoners at Front Royal, and they were a set of fine, hardy men. They were mostly from Georgia and Alabama.

Our Quartermaster has been out of shoes for some time now and nearly a third of the regiment marched over these rocky, stony turnpikes, barefooted. We marched from Front Royal to this place in very muddy and rainy weather. Monday afternoon it rained furiously, and most of us had no shelters, so we got completely soaked when we halted at night we built up a big fire, and

out around it — keeping as warm
as possible. We had passed over a
very rough road that day, so our teams
did not come up at all. We passed
a miserable night. We lay down on
the wet ground, in as close order
as possible, like so many pigs, and
managed to get a little sleep till
daylight we got up built up a big
fire, dried our clothes and started
on again. But this marching in the
night is worst kind of marching
We get so tired and sleepy, that
we often go to sleep while march-
ing. The first thing we know we
are running into a tree or a horse with our
nose into the ditch, a heap of pease or get
punched in the back by the man
in the rear. But notwithstanding all
our hardships, hunger, fatigue, we are
pure healthy in our bodies at
the present time. This is the day

routine when on the march. Bugle blows at four o'clock we get up: pack our knapsacks take them to the wagon. Get some water and make a little coffee; eat our breakfast of coffee, generally without sugar and crackers, sometimes a little broiled meat. By that time the bugle blows to fall in; If we are quick (but we generally get time enough,) to wash our face and hands in some neighboring mud hole. If we do, we consider ourselves lucky. We march all day long. Halting at dark near some stream and rail fence. As soon as our arms are stacked we charge on the rail fence and get a good pile of it for our cooks. Then we sit down and wait for the teams, or go down to the creek and have a good wash. When the teams come up, we get our knapsacks, take out our little shelter tents, pitch them, make up our beds. By that time the cooks have made coffee and we eat our supper, talk a little

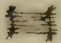
Camp near [illegible]
Aug 3rd 1862.

Dear Friends

Yours of the 23rd was received last evening and such a good long letter it was that it almost made up for the time that I did not get. I don't see what they could have done with it for the mail comes here direct from Baltimore. Well you must excuse me for saying anything in my letter to Miss [illegible] but now take the case home, suppose you wouldn't hear a word from me or about me for a month don't you think you would feel as though I had not done fair by you? [illegible] enough of what [illegible]

quite weeks. Now we [illegible] get this money will do us some good. When we are sick we can buy soft bread to make toast of, can buy butter, dried apples potatoes, molasses &c. I have borrowed a dollar, so I will have that to pay. I have patched the elbows of my shirts and by careful usage they will last until reinforcements arrive. I want them made good and strong and good long ones. I also want—

past. Everything has been extremely quiet since I wrote you last until Monday night about 12 o'clock when we were awakened by the discharge of artillery in the direction of the landing. By getting out of our bunks we could see the flash of the guns. The next morning we learned that the rebels had planted a battery opposite the landing and opened upon our pickets on this side. But our artillery got up and replied, and after an engagement of about half an hour drove the enemy from their position. Speaking of getting out of our bunks, perhaps you would like to know how they are made. Well I will tell you. In the first place we go into the woods and cut four posts with crotches, about three feet long, these we drive into the ground forming a square of about six feet, then we cut about eight poles seven feet long, two of them we lay in the crotches for side poles and the other six we

upon them thus forming a bedstead like this

Then we go into the woods and select
a Liquid Amber tree, chop it down, and
and take off a couple of layers of bark
five feet wide. It peels off and is as
pliable as a sheet of paper. these we lay
upon the poles, making a good, smooth
springy platform. Then we cut cedar
brush and lay upon the bark. then the
bed part is ready for the blankets. Over
the bed we stretch our shelter tents and
it makes a snug bunk, off from the
ground and a good seat as well as
bed. Our hard bread comes in light boxes
and when they are emptied we take them and
make cupboards of them, setting them on
four stakes beside the bunk. There is
not as many of the boys sick as there
were a week ago. I had it for about
four days, when I got all right again.
Horace Pond is much better, he will
soon be as sound as the best of
us. One thing that makes us healthier

is the change of food. Several times we have been furnished with rations of Potatoes, Onions, Dried Apples, and once of Tomatoes and Cabbage. So we do not fare as bad as we might. We have a good place to bathe about half a mile from here. It is at a dam, where the water pours over in a thin sheet, and we get under the, then behind it, it looks like a sheet of glass. To day we had preaching under our bower, and there is preaching again this evening. Our chaplain is making up for past delinquencies, for he preaches twice every Sunday, and distributes tracts, hymn books, Sunday School papers &c, so we can complain no longer when the sin of not having and divine service on Sunday. And he is doing some good too, and matters are more interesting each succeeding Sunday. There is prayer meeting nearly every pleasant evening, in the 7th Regiment & I attend all that I can get away to. We expect to be paid in a day or two, but I shall not send home as much as I did the last time for I have been out of funds for about two or three good woolen shirts, those that I received in the winter, packed entirely, packed in that they look themselves. Horace Pond and Sumner Abbott have sent for some, and [illegible] to have them sent through by Adams Express. they have an office here and they will come through all right. they tell me to have them sent in this package, and then we can pay part of the expense. The postage stamps are nearly all gone so I guess you had better send me a dollars worth, but they will come all safe in letters. I think that I shall not be troubled with sickness any more this summer, and the heat I can stand very well, for it looks as though we were going to remain in this position until cooler weather. We have an arbor or bower over our street which makes it quite cool and comfortable. It is made of poles and brush. Yesterday the whole company was vaccinated, though we have heard of but one case of the small pox and that was in the next regiment to us.

But the captain is bound to do all he can to keep us from getting sick. He seems to be everywhere and at the same time stops us from eating greasy food, &c. In fact he does everything that is right. He says when a man is sick, he is welcome to anything his table affords. If you don't want me to get homesick you mustn't say too much about pears, cherries, thanksgiving dinner &c. But never mind if I do get home all safe, I shall enjoy them next year just twice as much as you will, and I will know how to appreciate good things. Tommy Hayhurst has written to me saying he thought of enlisting and wanted to get into this company. Tell all such that orders are expected for one from each company to go home to receive recruits. So John Elliott can't stand it any longer. Well, I wish I was there to take his place, but as I am not I wish he would make arrangements with his successor, so that I could have it when I [illegible] Sarah winds up her letter by asking me to set down to breakfast with her. Now you are taking advantage of me. How do I know what you had for breakfast. Perhaps I had a better one than you. I had a quart of coffee with sugar in it, four hard crackers or Cincinnati Platters as we call them, and a slice of fried bacon. Now what did you have. For want of a good memory I am going to copy out of my Diary, from July 21st the day I wrote you last.

Tuesday the 22d. We were turned out at 7 o'clock this morning for a Grand [illegible] We were marched to a large parade-ground near the landing where the entire 2d Army Corps was drawn up in column of brigades. We were reviewed by Maj. Gen McClellan Maj. Gen. Sumner Comdg Corps Gen. Kearney and others. Gen. Kimball has command of the 3d Division of Sumner's Corps. We started for camp about twelve o'clock. Had ration of tomatoes to-day.

Wednesday 23d Battallion Drill this morning before breakfast. Had rations to day of potatoes and cabbage.

Thursday 24th Quite sick with the diarrhea last night and to-day. Battallion Drill this morning before breakfast. Rec'd a letter from John Hall this evening.

Friday 25th Excused from duty by the doctor this morning. Write letter to John Hall this A.M. Company built a bower of poles and brush over our street this A.M.

Saturday 26th We finished the bower this morning. I am much better to-day. We raised our bed upon a a bark platform this P.M.

Sunday 27th Inspection in the company

grounds at 9 o'clock this morning. Preaching under our bowers at 10. Preaching again this evening.

Monday 28th Exchanged our muskets for newly repaired ones of the same pattern. The whole Brigade is now armed with the smooth bore, percussion lock musket. We received new accoutrements throughout. Borrowed a dollar of Hiram Evans to day.

Tuesday 29th Thomas Putnam came and saw us this forenoon. He is in the [illegible] 3d Vt. Regt. and [illegible] Horace Ford had to go to the hospital to stay this evening.

Wednesday 30th [illegible] regimental [illegible] today.

Thursday 31st Was relieved at eight o'clock this morning, but had to [illegible] the parade-ground before we were dismissed.

Friday 1st Last night we were awakened by the discharge of artillery in the direction of the Landing. The firing lasted about half an hour. Rec'd a letter this evening from Tommy Hayhurst.

Saturday 2d Wrote letter to Tommy Hayhurst this morning. Our Chaplain gave me a hymn-book this P.M.

Sunday, We had Battallion Inspection at half past eight. Preaching under our bower at 10. It is now raining. We have just drew rations of potatoes, onions, and dried apples. Well, I have filled ten pages as much as you two were put together, I should write more, if I had more to write about, but I haven't, so I will do the next best thing, that is to stop. Your letter was directed all right. Write soon and send in the letter the best piece of pie in the house and a bowl of bread and milk. Much love to all from

yours Affectionately [illegible]

1st Division Genl. Hospital
Alexandria Va. Oct [illegible]

Friend [illegible]

I [illegible] of
your [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
but your brother Horace. I found
[illegible]
[illegible] should appear & was a little surprised
when he told me that the Surg. in charge
of the Hospl to which he belonged was
[illegible]
As it is a long & somewhat tedious process
to get a soldier transferred & as Ed was in
want of time to accomplish it, the attempt
to [illegible] I did not undertake to
get him [illegible] to this Hospital where
he [illegible], but
told him [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

for field service. I immediately determined
to take him in to the Hospl at the suggestion of
[illegible] and let him go to the
Convalescent Camp beyond Alexandria to
which place he has [illegible] since. I have
seen [illegible] tell when I see him often &
[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] more
with me [illegible] [illegible] to take good
care of him "for I know his Sister".

I thought I would write you about him [illegible]
by good [illegible] the liberty. [illegible]
[illegible] I [illegible] you [illegible], with [illegible]
[illegible], I was glad to [illegible] your
[illegible] of your [illegible]

I hope your [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] to your [illegible] &
[illegible] tell [illegible] after
[illegible]

If you write to [illegible] direct
[illegible] Hospital Alexandria
Va.

Yours [illegible]
C. [illegible]

Genl Hospital Mansion House
Alexandria, Va. Oct. 12th 1862.

Dear Parents,

You see I am still in a Hospital sitting on my cot in my shirtsleeves and drawers. I wrote you a letter from Trinity Hospital Sept 1[illegible]th sending for some money for I was entirely out and had been for a month, and I needed a little very much to buy milk with, I also wanted those recommends for I had written to Henry Nichols at the War Department asking him to try and get me a situation. He returned a reply that he would do all he could for me, that he had referred the letter to Capt Eckert his Supt, and hoped for a

winter campaign. I am in better hands here than I was at Trinity Hospital, for the doctor visits us oftener we have better food and everything is better. One thing I want very much is three woolen shirts, for it is coming on cold weather and these cotton shirts are very cool things. I really need two wool shirts, two undershirts, two pair woolen drawers and two pair of socks. I shall probably be here a month, and if you have not sent them send them by express to me here. All that I have got is a thin white cotton shirt, white cotton drawers, a pair of socks, a pair of shoes, a worn miserable manner. Well I waited day after day, and a more anxious time I never had. The fellows would come into the Hospital with milk bottles, boiled eggs, apple dumplings, baked sweet potatoes and everything to tempt a man's appetite; but not a cent had I. And I had not heard a word from you since we left [illegible] and I wanted very much to hear from you, nor have I had a word from you up to this time. Well Monday the 6th I walked down to the [illegible] and got my pay, in all $65.65, $52,00 for my four month's wages and $13.65 for allowance for clothing that I had not drawn. I went down to the Express Office and sent fifty dollars ($50,00) of it to you, and I have the receipt for the same. The numbers of the bills sent were a 20 of No. 67811, letter A, a 20 of No 36546 letter B, a 5 of No. 129147, letter C, and a 5 of No. 33923 letter A. The ballance 15.65 I have kept out however, and might have at. I bought me a pair of new pouches, 2 Handkerchiefs and some other little articles that I needed. After I got my pay, then I got anxious to go to my regiment, so I asked the doctor to let me go. I hadnt ought to have done it for I was not strong enough to march a mile. But we left the Hospital Friday and was taken down to the Soldiers Retreat, a very big place near the Depots. I wanted to sleep there but went up town and paid 25 cts for a supper and the same for a bed. As I was walking up Penn. Av. I met Ed. Tryon and another officer. He didnt see me but I knew him in a minute so I turned and followed him a few rods when they entered a store and I went in and spoke to him asking him if his name was not Tryon. He told me it was and we shook hands. He said he recognized my countenance but could not recall my name, but when I told him he knew me well enough. He is the 1st Hospital Steward in this Hospital

He told me to get a pass and come over and see him, but I told him I was "under marching orders" at the Soldiers' Retreat. He told me that I was not fit to go to my regiment and that I ought to go back to the Hospital. I could not dispute him, for I am so thin and look so sickly that you would hardly know me. Well, Friday night it rained and Saturday was a cold rainy day. About ten o'clock in the morning we were ordered into line and were marched off in the rain to the wharf a mile and a half, and before I got there I was completely tired out. Well we were put aboard the steamer and brought here to Alexandria, and started for the "convalescent camp," but in coming up the street we had to pass this Hospital so I thought I would drop in a few minutes and see "the lad." Well when he saw me, I said I shouldn't go any farther for I was fit to be off from my bed. So here I am No. 420 Front Hospital, Mansion House, Alexandria Virginia and here I am going to stay until I feel that my diarrhea is cured and that I am able to stand a

[illegible]
out [illegible] is not [illegible]
[illegible] the rest of my clothes. I
suppose we lost [illegible]
blanket, socks, shirt and pants
are in my knapsack and I have
not seen it, or heard of it since
we left Harrison's Landing. I
want you to write me of every-
thing that has occurred since the
middle of August. Ask [illegible] you write
me a long letter, and father I wish
you would get the best [illegible]
made and send them to me for
I want something strong. If I can
get that situation in the office I
shall get along well, but I don't
believe I can stand it to lay out
this winter and it would be a
little better on the [illegible] side of
the movement. If I don't get that
[illegible] get [illegible].

3d

n attendant now in the Hospital, Atten-
dant gets $15.00 per month extra,
that $300 will make $16,00 that
I have at home and with [illegible] that
Andrews owes me makes $14,00, I
am going to have enough to spend
my three years is up to buy me
a small farm, for a farmer I
have made up my mind to be, if
I ever live till this war is over for
an indoor life will never do
for me. Do you keep my letters
I wrote you before this. I wish
you had kept every one of them
for I would like them to refer to
[illegible] for my diary is so small
I could not write half that I would
like to. Well I am getting pretty
tired so I must think of retiring
[illegible] to write [illegible]
[illegible]. When you write [illegible] if you
should send a package [illegible] I
[illegible] don't

put on the envelope and Regiment but just simply "Ward 5 Slough Genl. Hospital. Mansion House Alexandria Va." and they will be brought right to my hand. I think that the letter will be lost if you send any forward on to the Regiment because you put on the Co. & Regt. Shall be happy to see a big letter, a bundle of papers and a package of clothing and "fixin's" soon. I remain

Your Aff. Son,
H. H. Snow

If you can read this you will do well for I am writing on a little book on my knee.
P.S. [illegible] papers might be very plainly and but useful [illegible] may "tell them I will take good care of you."

[illegible]

a

[Contd no. 2 of letter of Oct. 19 [illegible]]

particular a thing. I am getting quite strong again, and feel first rate. If I get into the clerks mess, and get good strong food I shall soon be all right. Adams Express Office is in this building so anything you send will be sure to come direct to me. — Mr. Pond and Horace have just called on me. It was quite a surprise, for I thought no one knew where I was but they found me. Horace looks quite healthy in the face but he is not well yet. Mr. Pond brought me two shirts, one pair of socks and two handkerchiefs, but no dried fruit that you spoke of. I would like some for lunches first rate. The shirts are just what I want, good and warm. I must hurry up and send this letter by Mr. Pond. I hope to have two or three good long letters before the week is out from you. Write everything. Mr. Pond and Horace have gone out to dinner.

but we came back after dinner.
I don't know whether Horace has
got a furlough to go back with
the [illegible] or not. I suppose it is
of no use of me trying to get
one but you must be contented
with my being out of danger of
being killed for a time. Give
my best love to all and don't
put off writing to me.

Aff. Son
H. [illegible]

Over

Genl. Hospital, Mansion House,
Alexandria, Va. Oct 14th 18[illegible]

Dear Frank:

This forenoon I received two letters from you, one dated Sept 15th and the other Sept 23rd. They were forwarded to me from the regiment by Lucius Abbott. The last one is the one I looked for so anxiously at Finley Hospital. They looked at it [illegible] to be robbed and didnt look any farther, or after the remainder, and not find them just empty, as above. I found the five dollars and the postage stamps all right. Enclosed I return the five dollars. Mrs Rogers came to see the other day and asked me how I would like a shirt or two [illegible]

position here in the Hospital this winter,
he said he could give me a berth, and
at my extra pay too, I told him
that I should like a clerk's position
first rate, for the sake of good pay and the
[illegible], and a taste of [illegible]. I
told him about my applying for a posi-
tion in the line, and that I would take
the clerks position until I heard from
Nichols. So as soon as some clothing
comes (which will be in a day or two)
I shall be scratching away in the office,
but I hope to have a better pen and
place to write with than I have now.
I have written to Cousin to have
him send my clothing that you sent
me, my gold pen &c to me by Express.
So Fannie is married is she? The
first word that I have heard of
it happening was that John and
Fannie had written from Niagara
the week before. Now I want you
to write the particulars about

Clerk's Office General Hospital.
Mansion House, Alexandria Va. Nov 8th
[1862]

Dear Parents & Sister:

Your letter dated Nov 4th was received yesterday, and the one from Nov 7th and containing the receipt was received this morning. I have commenced a letter on a large sheet of paper, but as I shall not probably mail it for a day or two I can think of enough to fill it. Wednesday, the 5th about ten o'clock Mr. Hayes came and told me he had something for me to do in the office. So I went with him into the office and was detailed as one of the clerks with the privilege of going out in the city whenever I please, and eating at the best table in the house. Friday, the 7th I went over to the Telegraph Office, and found that Col. Stager was in his office at the War Department, Washington. So I asked him if he could do anything for me. (By way of putting him in mind of his promise) He replied by telling me to give him the name of my company and Regiment and he would have me discharged." I did so of course

of the Potomac railways run to the docks and the supplies are taken up to Warrenton, whenever needed. Alexandria is a poor place for visitors for there is nothing of interest here to see. Last week Tom Thumb and Com. Nutt were here with Barnum, but I did not care enough about seeing them to pay a quarter. There is also a Theater every night, but I never had any inclination to go to it. I wish it would so happen that I could have about two weeks leave of absence, and a free pass to go home and return, it would then be o.k.; for I could see you, get my clothes and straighten matters out generally. Wouldn't that suit you?

So that is the way matters stand now. I am waiting the course of events. I am getting ready in a small way to take my departure. I have got a good overcoat and I have had pockets put in it. Only a day or two I expect to be no longer a U. S. Soldier but once more a civilian. I will probably lose the bounty but if I cannot make $1,00 Dollars in eighteen months I won't do as well as I think I can. I am not going to mail this letter until I get to my post, for I don't want to lose any more letters by having them sent here and then forwarded to me wherever I may be. When I get located I am going to have you send me my cloths and valise, for I will then be a citizen and shall want citizen clothes. I have bought me a good cap - military of course - It cost me $1,50.

Wednesday Evening Nov 12th

I am still anxiously waiting to hear from Col. Slager. These days seem like weeks to me, although I am kept pretty busy in the office. Yesterday Mr. Hazen went over to Washington and I gave him my receipt, and he said he would go down and get it if he had time but he did not so I shall have to wait until I go over myself. This morning I received a letter from Abbie Hazel, the first one she has written me since I enlisted. It had been a long time on the road, she suppos

I was with the regiment, and directed accordingly and it was forwarded to me by Dennis.

For the last two or three days I have had the Diarrhea pretty bad, but this morning I procured some pills from the doctor and I guess that they will check it. I have to be very careful of what I eat. Yesterday I received two papers from you, one Democrat and one Cleveland; they were very welcome. You write that you don't want me to get my picture taken until I weigh 130 pounds.

I am afraid you will have to wait some time then, for this morning I went out and weighed me, and I could only raise 109 pounds. I wish it would so happen that I would have to stop in Washington two or three days, for I want very much to visit the Smithsonian Institute and look over its Library, Cabinet &c, also the Patent Office. I have seen the outside of all the public buildings of Washington, but I would like to have time to see all that is to be seen, inside as well as out. I have walked under the pillars of the President's house, been into the War, Post Office, Treasury and Navy Departments but only for a minute.

Sunday evening, Nov. 16th

Here it is a week since I commenced this letter and still I don't want to send it, for I am still in the dark as to my destination. But if I don't write you soon you will be worrying about me, so if I don't hear by mail tomorrow morning I will send you this and then write you again as soon as I get to my *post*. Friday I received a letter from Lucius containing my *Descriptive List*, which will enable me to square everything with Uncle Sam, which I could not have done if he had not sent it to me, for I could not have got pay for what clothing I have not drawn since the 1st of July, which will be quite an *item*.

The regiment was then near Warrenton, Va.; it keeps near the headquarters of the army. Yesterday I went over to the Telegraph Office and finding that Col. Stager was in his office at the War Department thought I would see if he had any *news* to tell me; so I told him I had received my descriptive list, and that everything could be settled, and that I would like to be at work as soon as possible, but he made no reply so I shall have to wait his time, for I don't want to hurry him, for I lost the office that he offered me on the Baltimore & Ohio R.R. before I enlisted, by hurrying him, when if I had waited a week or so he would have given me a good office.

This afternoon I took a walk down on the docks and to anybody but a soldier it would be a sight worth seeing to see the piles and stacks of hard bread, baled hay, barrels of bacon, corned beef, sugar, coffee, corn, oats, and all the supplies for the army.

Mansion House Hospital, Christmas
Thursday, December 25th 1862.

Dear Parents,

It is now three weeks since I have heard a word from you, I wrote you a letter Thursday Dec 4th and have been waiting for an answer for some time, As you see I did not get off as I expected, Saturday the 20th, I received the following dispatch - War Dept, Washington Dec, 20th 62 - Horace N. Snow, - By Special order 397 Dec, 16th, you are honorably discharged from the ranks to enter Military Telegraph Service, - Report here for duty soon as possible, - A, Stager, Supt U.S. Military Telegs.

I answer his dispatch telling him that I could not report until the Surgeon here received a copy of the order discharging

Hoping to hear from you soon I am as ever.
Your Aff. Son,
Horace N. Snow

me, so I am still a soldier. I suppose you received my last letter all right; I hope so at least for in it I sent you my picture. I suppose you are wishing that I was at home to-day to spend Christmas with you. Well, I wish I was too, but we are going to have a grand supper to-night, if we are soldiers. We had a very fine supper Thanksgiving. You probably think that it is high time that I was sending home some money. I think so too, but to tell the truth, since I have been a clerk here and eat at the stewards and clerks table I have spent nearly all that I earn. We have to pay $2,00 a month in the mess. That buys us better beaf-steak, vegitables &c. Then Thanksgiving we had to give seventy-five cents for a supper, and to-day $3,00 for supper, pay our cooks and a chance in a ring cake a sort of lottery affair. I have to go into these arrangements not because I wish to, but because I dont want to be mean and stingy. I paid $4.00 for a vest. $2.00 for eight photographs, 50 cts for neck-tie, 50 cts for gloves, and three days ago I went up town and bought me a pair of boots. I was surprised at the high price of boots & shoes. A pair of boots that would cost $5.00 at home when I left, are worth $8.50 here. I bought a good serviceable pair and paid $6.50 for them. So you see I have not much left out of $19.00 a month. But I expect soon to be where I can earn more than $20.00 a month.

This morning I received a letter from Capt. Hart of Co. I from Palmetto Ga. He informs me that [illegible] Allen is very badly wounded, also Charles Carney and Arthur Griswold. The Capt wrote word to me to "go in on my muscle" that he is glad that I have got a good situation, and wishes me success. This is better than I expected. I expected that he would not like it very much. I have not heard from John and Fannie for a long time. I wrote to them Nov. 26th but have received no answer. I wish you would send me all your [illegible]

Fannie's & Woodards that I sent home from Harrison's Landing, and the rest of you if you have them on cards. How much money have I got at home now? I must make it larger and larger until I can buy that little farm of mine, (mine in perspective.)

Has Horace Pond reached home yet? He told me to write to him at Elyria about Christmas, but you tell him to write and tell me whether he has [illegible] home or not, so that I can write to him. I have wished that I could get a leave of absence to go home and spend New Years. If I could get Mr. Stager to let me take [illegible] for three or four months, and then let him put me wherever he pleases everything would be all O.K. wouldn't it? But I ought to be contented to go wherever he wants me. Well here I am at the end of the sheet. Now if I do not hear from you in a few days, I shall think that you have forgotten how to write. Therefore

Time Received

United States Military Telegraph,
War Department,
Washington, D. C., January 27th 1863

Dear Brother and Sister

Yours of the 21st was received Friday the 23d I made a great blunder in my last letter — telling you that I inclosed my picture, when I neglected to put it in and I will endeavor to remedy it now.

The picture is not a good one of me, for I am now much more fleshy, and natural than I was then, but it is not as bad as some that I have seen.

I like my situation better and better every day, and although I do not expect very high wages for the first few months I am in one of the best of places for a learner like me, for I have, perhaps the best place to learn telegraphing, and I am learning to read by sound very fast, and I shall not think of coming home until I am a perfect sound operator. I don't see how I could ever have contented myself to use the paper as long as I did in Elyria. —— There are so many lines converging here that some of the instruments are in operation all the time, so that I cannot complain of opportunity to practice — then Mr. Stager is Supt. of all the telegraphic lines in the United States and all military lines are supplied from here, and there is all kinds of telegraphic instruments, batteries, wire, submarine cable, insulators &c. here so I have a very good chance of studying all branches of telegraphing. I regret very much that I did not make a thorough study of Philosophy when at school, But perhaps my school days are not over yet, I hope not at least for there are many studies that I would like to have a thorough knowledge of before I am many years older.

Another thing that makes me like the place is that I have obtained a good home-like boarding place, or as near like home as I could expect to get here in the city, they are common folks but do all they can to make one comfortable, and at home, or nearly at home. for that would be impossible. I wish that they were members of a church that I would like to attend. but they are Catholics, - so I go to church alone. As I have told you before I have to be in the office every other Sunday, so I cannot attend church with that ~~that~~ regularity that I would wish to, and I cannot attend evening prayer and class meetings, for I have to remain in the office until after ten o'clock, but I have my bible yet, that is not taken from me, and in it I find strength to resist all the temptations that surround me. This time I shall certainly send you my picture, - "that is if I do not forget it." You must not mind the looks of this sheet for I have no other paper here, and I have a miserable pen. I have just received an Elyria Democrat from home. It contains a ~~long~~ history of the lamented Capt. Allen. I am so sorry, for the company will never get another captain that will look after their welfare as well as he did. I suppose Lieut. Nickerson will now be captain of Co "I" I hardly expected to hear of Abel resigning, for I did expect to hear of Major or Col. Hall before long. Now I have written all about my situation &c here, I want you to write me about your situation. Do you "keep house" yet? What does John congregation think of "their minister's wife"? Come now, tell us all about it; and that very soon, too. a little sooner than you did the last time

Your Aff Bro.
H. N. Snow

Time Received

United States Military Telegraph,
(2)
War Department,

Washington, D. C., ... 186

Wednesday the 7th I went up to the Capitol. I took the time usually spent in going to dinner and took the street cars and made Congress a flying visit. Both the Senate and House were in session but I could not remain long enough to hear what their speeches were about.

I went all over the Capitol, and it payed me for the time spent. Such fine paintings, statues, &c. I do wish you could all see them. I went into the Library, which is very extensive I would like to spend two or three days in reading some of those old but precious books. There is also copies of all the late works there, and any book that you are a mind to call for the librarian will place in your hands. I intend to take a trip to the Smithsonian Institute the first opportunity also to the Patent Office

Thursday. New Years! I had the pleasure of taking Hon. Abraham Lincoln by the hand at his levee at the White House. We went in the front door and passing through two or three rooms passed out through the East room and through the E. window to the street. Since then I have seen him several times in the office. I have to copy nearly all the despatches to the President, Gen. Halleck, Secy. Stanton &c, and so hear of what the army is doing before they do.

Thursday the 8th Mr. Morris the sutler of the 8th came into the office, and he told me that Capt. Allen was in Douglas Hospital in this city, so that noon I took the time that I should have gone to dinner and went to the Hospital and saw him. He looks very bad, al though Edgar Irish (who is taking care of him) told me that he was much better than he had been. I had quite a long visit with him though he is not permitted to talk much. He told me he was glad that I had got a good birth, and hoped I would have a good time. I shall go up and see him as often as I can. Every other evening I am

How is Horace Pond looking; pretty well to be discharged for disability — is he not. That visit of his Father was not for nothing. Well I have asked all the questions that I can think of at present, and I think that I have written enough for one letter, so Good bye 'till you hear from me again,

Your Aff Son,

Horace N. Snow.

Head Quarters U. S. [illegible] [illegible]
186[illegible]

Dear Parents

Your long looked for letter, dated the 10th and mailed on the 12th reached me this afternoon. It was the best letter that I have read, for — I don't know how long.

Perhaps it was because I am out here in the "wilderness" and a letter from home, is relished more than when in the city, that I know it was very interesting.

Perhaps it was because I had not heard from you for such a long time and then receiving a good long letter made it all the more interesting. I received [illegible] letter on the 12th. So he was at home before I received it.

I am very, very sorry that I cannot be at home during his visit there, but it is not in my power so to have it.

I am now farther from my furlough than when in Washington, and shall not expect to be home until three years, when I shall be [illegible]

If I get the fever on this Peninsula I shall certainly come home, but I shall not court sickness, so that I may have an excuse for getting home. But I think I stand a pretty good chance of getting it especially if they

the little [illegible], and [illegible] of [illegible]
It is all [illegible] to me
for I have no correspondent
now [illegible] [illegible] you
except you [illegible]
all about my school
mates, male and female;
what has become of
[illegible] & Bill? I have
no excuse for writing
any more. Write again
soon, and mother, send
[illegible] interesting letter

Your Affectionate
Son and Brother
Horace V. Snow.

send me up to Fort Magruder near Williamsburg.

The Operator whom I relieved, and who then went to Ft. Magruder was there but nine days, when he was taken sick with the bilious fever and had to give up and went to Baltimore. Genl. Naglee, the Commanding Officer telegraphed to Maj. Eckert for an Operator for Ft. Magruder and he replied, he had no Operator to send, and that that office would have to be closed for the present. The office was closed and the instrument brought to this place. I am now the nearest operator to Richmond [illegible])

I will give you some of the interesting features of this historic place, — Cornwallis' Head Quarters, are still in a very good condition. It is a large two story and a half, brick building, with plenty of rooms. It is now the Nelson Hospital, It is on McClellan Avenue and Keyes' Street. Just off this, Cornwallis' surrender field is about half a mile outside the fortifications. The [illegible] House [illegible] close to it; I saw it last Fall when we marched past here, on our way to Newport News. Part of it is now covered with the "Union Cemetery" a soldiers burying ground.

Here, covering over an acre of ground are buried the soldiers, from every State in the Union. They are buried in neat rows, with a nicely whitewashed board, with the name, company, and regiment of the deceased painted thereon for a head board. Occasionally you will see one marked "Unknown", and it seems so sad. Four, five, and sometimes as high as nine are buried daily. I went to a carpenter's shop yesterday morning to get a little job done, and he said ~~he would~~ ~~[illegible]~~ he had orders for nine coffins that day, and would not have time to do it. Across a deep ravine, from the surrender field, and we come into "Slab City," the rendezvous for contrabands. The "City" covers nearly three acres and is laid out into streets and avenues. The houses are built of logs, and the outside and roof covered with "slabs" or thin strips of pine; and on the inside the chinks are filled with mud. The chimneys are built at the back of the house, mainly of crossed sticks and mud. The houses are all alike and look very uniform and neat. The male contrabands are employed as teamsters, wood-cutters, hostlers, &c.

McClellan's entrenchments are in good condition yet, about five miles distant. I have not yet been out to see them.

Gloucester Point is a fortified point opposite here, and is the camp of a regiment of cavalry. A ferry-boat plies between there and Yorktown. Bang — goes the "Tattoo" gun — half past eight. There are three guns fired every evening, one at sunset, one at tattoo, half past eight, and one at taps, nine o'clock. The countersign is put on at sunset, and no one can go in or out of the fortifications without it.

It is given to me every afternoon, and I can go and come when I choose. You ask me if I get any more pay now than when in Washington. I think I am getting sixty dollars a month, but I shall not know until next pay-day. I know I ought to get sixty.

If they do give me sixty, which is no more than [illegible] [illegible] either [illegible] or the field! I shall think I am doing pretty well. I am allowed rations, which are worth nine dollars a month.

I would not exchange for a first Lieutenant's commission. You say I did not say anything about sending Mr. Pollock the $100, I thought I did. Do it, certainly.

Elyria must be quite a stirring place now, with the new buildings, elections &c. What did Brodard say about Elyria, its changes, &c. I shall not write to him until I hear of his arrival at camp again, for I should not know when the letter would reach him.

I wish Cousin Lovell was in this Department. I would get him detailed here in my office on duty, and he would have very good times. I am now in a position to do, that; I was not at the War Department.

So the young ladies are all going off to boarding school. Well! I wish I was going too. I hope they won't all get ~~married~~ engaged though, as Alice D— did, for I am coming home myself sometime.

I received a letter from Cousin Mary Custer yesterday. She complains of Sarah's not writing to her since she left [illegible] for home, the [illegible] five weeks ago.

Well! Now I am at the end of my long sheet. Have I not written all the particulars, as directed? Or did you want me to tell you that I had to have my overcoat for a pillow, and sleep between rough hair blankets; drank very bad coffee with no milk in it; had pork and beans for dinner every day; shave twice a week, and then look bearish; but then you know such things will be in "camp." Sarah I am glad you are so good at [illegible]

Yorktown Va Dec 24th 62

Dear Parents,

I am becoming a alarmed about you, I received yours of the 2d on the 7th and answered it on the 8th since then have not heard from you, I have waited evening after evening, hoping to hear from you so I could write again, I have now concluded to write without receiving answer to my last one, Since I wrote you we have had great times in Yorktown, I sent you a Cavalier which contained a pretty full and correct report I will say nothing but what I myself took part in, Both my wires passed close to the burning building and were burned off about five minutes before the explosion. I was down to the fire when it first commenced and saw there was great danger of my line burning down, so I went to the office and told the operators on the line if the line should go down, they would understand what was the matter and not send out their repairers. I also had time to send a message to Genl. Butler and receive an answer. He was at Fortress Monroe. As soon as the line fell I went to Adjt Genl and told him the line had burned. He said it was of the greatest importance to keep up the communication with the General at Ft Monroe. I told him I could do it very easily. So I obtained lantern and with instrument blanket fuses &c, started out with my orderly. I was talking with the Adjt Genl when the first heavy explosion took place. The nearest place I could reach the Fortress wire was where it came into the fort near South west corner. This was directly opposite and within twenty rods of the exploding magazine. It was the nearest and also the most dangerous place I could get but I wasn't looking out for safe places then. I had duty to do, and I have the honor to say I did it like a man. I cut the wire, or rather drew in the end burnt off. put on a ground wire and was working with Fort Monroe in twenty minutes from the time of the line first.

going down, I worked there in the cold until morning and all that day, Shells, bricks bullets and everything flying over and around me, I have two pieces of shell on my table for paper weights, that fell within five feet of me.

I have again applied for a leave of absence, and I am pretty certain of getting it.

Tuesday 22d I received this note.

"H. N. Snow Telegraph Operator.

" Your conduct having been
"very efficient on the night of
"the fire, it will give me pleas-
"ure to give you any letter of
"recommendation which you may
"now or at any future time
"desire which may assist your"
"professional advancement".

(Signed) J. J. Bristal
Brig. Genl.

This he put on the end of my application to Maj. Eckert,

"Hd. Qrs. U S Forces,
Fort Yorktown Va Dec 23rd

'The energetic and praiseworthy 'conduct of Mr Lusk on the 'night of 16th inst during a 'conflagration and constant explosions 'in this place in re-establishing 'and keeping in order the telegraph "line which was in constant use, 'merit some mark of special appre'ciation. Though sorry to lose 'his services even temporarily 'I should be glad for him to 'have a furlough and if possible 'promotion.

I. J. Wistar
Brig. Genl Comdg

'Thats that for Honor.
If it turns out good I think

I will be with you New-Years.
But do not make too many
calculations upon it, for I can
hardly hope for it.
I received a letter from Goddard
on the 2nd Dated Bridgeport, Ala.
Dec 8th. I think he has also
written you, for he was wounded
at Ringgold, and his name was
published among the wounded, and
he wrote to let me know that
it was not serious. I also
received a letter from the firm
of '[illegible] & [illegible]' which seems
to be prospering finely.
I have not been paid for October
or November yet, but have drawn
my 'Rations'. They also are
increase of salary for me of
fifteen dollars a month, making
my salary now sixty-five dol-
lars a month, so you see
my services are appreciated

[illegible] [illegible] ago at Washington.
I think I can afford a new
vestment (for I have only one
rag on to wear home) — when
I get back. I hope that young
Spectator from the 'Old Dominion' will
be your next visitor, if you
wait long enough, you will know
whether he is or not.
I will wear my [illegible] until
I can buy it myself.
With strong high [illegible]
I remain Your Aff [illegible]
[illegible]

3d Cav. Fort Magruder, near Williamsburg,
Va. January 15th, 1864

Dear Parents & sister

You see by the above [illegible] that I am [illegible] [illegible] as I am [illegible] at present, and [illegible] within the enemy lines.

I came up here last Friday 10th. The operator at this place is [illegible] on a furlough of ten days, having had death in his family. One of the operators at Fort [illegible] was to relieve him. Having the ten days he wished to see both Yorktown and Williamsburg. I also wished to see the old town of Williamsburg, [illegible] [illegible] would [illegible] I [illegible] stay [illegible] and then [illegible] to Yorktown and he would come up and stay till the operator returns from furlough. I obtained a good horse from the Cav. [illegible] and came up (eleven miles) [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the battle field of Williamsburg May 5th 1862. The trenches where the union and rebel dead [illegible] buried are still visible.

Yesterday I got a horse and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

all the places of interest to me, I visited all the [illegible] in the town, went through the fine institution [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] to the ruins of [illegible] [illegible] buildings and grounds. William and Mary College, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the first [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible] I saw the ruins of the old [illegible] [illegible] and walked [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I saw the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and on the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it is, [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] a fine piece of statuary; a life size form of the [illegible] mounted on a marble base, the whole is of fine Italian marble. [illegible] the inscription is this. "The Right Honourable Norborne Berkeley Baron de Botetourt [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] and [illegible] of [illegible]" the date MDCCLXXII (1772). I wrote a letter to [illegible] [illegible] day before yesterday. I have written more fully [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Maj. Eckert, I will let it remain [illegible] [illegible] of the month until [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] this [illegible] and the [illegible] the gentleman of his promise. Your letter of the 12th was received here on the 18th. Do you keep all my letters or do you destroy them? I would like to have [illegible] of my travels recorded. They would be quite interesting a few years from now. The [illegible] will not leave Jackson till Wednesday.

I received a letter from Ed Hagen a day or two since. He had been to Chicago on leave of absence, but did not go to Elgin. Did I write you in my last letter about seeing Lieut [illegible]? I was expected to [illegible] Elgin people in this particular country, I should not have [illegible] much [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible].

United States Military Telegraph.

Daily Journal.

By Telegraph from Yorktown Va

Dated April 20th 1864.

To

Major General Wm F. Smith arrived here this P.M. by special boat from Fortress Monroe. He was received by a salute of thirteen guns and met at the wharf and escorted to Genl Wistar's Hd. Qrs by the 148th N.Y. Vols. He assumes command of all troops in the vicinity of Yorktown Gloucester Pt. and Williamsburg or the district lately commanded by Brig. Genl Wistar. Parts of the 10th and 18th Army Corps are now here and all of said corps are expected soon.

o

Yorktown, Va. April 21st

To day the following orders were issued

Hd. Qrs. U. S. Troops at Yorktown and Gloucester Point Va. April 21st 1864.

General Orders No 1 — 1 - In obedience

to Pursuant. 1, Special Orders No 101 (Current Series) of Hd Qrs Dept of the Va & N.C. the undersigned hereby assumes command of the forces and fortifications of Yorktown & Gloucester Point.

II — [illegible] Commanding Sub-districts, Commanding Officers of Brigades and regiments unassigned and chiefs of the several Staff Departments will report in person at these Head Quarters.

Wm F. Smith.
Maj. Genl Comdg

Head Quarters U. S. Forces
Yorktown, Va April 2nd 64

General Orders
No 12.

In obedience to orders from [illegible] Head Quarters the undersigned hereby relinquishes the command of the District of Yorktown for another sphere of duty.

II. [illegible] Staff Departments reporting to these Head Quarters will report immediately to Maj. Genl. Wm F. Smith.

Isaac J. Wistar.
Brig. Genl.

United States Military Telegraph.

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By Telegraph from

Dated 1864.

To April 21st Continued
An order was also issued today re-
organizing the 18th Army Corps into
two Divisions of two brigades each.
Each brigade having four regiments.
Brig. Gen. W. T. H. Brooks is assigned
to the command of the 1st Division
Brig. Gen. Jos. H. Ledlie Commands
1st Brig. 1st Div.
Brig. Genl. Marston Commands
2d Brig. 1st Div.
Brig. Genl. Heckman Command
1st Brig. 2d Div. and Brig. Genl.
I. J. Wistar is assigned to the
command of his old brigade 2d
Brig. 2d Div. It is composed of
148th N. Y. Vols.
11th Conn. Vols
2d N. Hamp. Vols. and
12th N. Hamp. Vols

Yorktown, Va April 22d

The 2d Brigade, 2d Division (Genl. Wistar's Brigade) was ordered to Williamsburg this P.M. Two of his regiments the 1st Conn and 12th N. Hamp. were already there. The remaining [illegible] marched this P.M. His Hd. Qrs. are still here. Maj. Genl. B. F. Butler came up this afternoon on the fast steamer "Grey Hound" for consultation with Maj. Genl. Smith. The 10th Army Corps are nearly all arrived from South Carolina and are encamped at Gloucester Pt. More are arriving every day "and the cry is still they come." The 16th New-York Heavy Artillery came over from the Gloucester Point and occupies the barracks vacated by the 1+5th N. Y. The 16th left one company at Gloucester Pt to garrison [illegible] [illegible]. ~~The~~ 8th

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from 5

Dated 1864.

To Yorktown Va. Apl 23

The 8th New-York Independent Battery of which David Houghton is a member came from Gloucester Pt last evening and left for Williamsburg this morning. David Houghton is clerk in the Provost Marshal's Office and will not go to the front with the battery. Three light batteries arrived last night viz Batteries "A" & "D" 1st U. S. Arty and Battery "A" 4th Wisconsin

Genl Wistar being the ranking officer of the 2d Div. 18th A. C. he has been assigned to the ~~the~~ command of that Division, Hd. Qrs. Yorktown. Col. G. A. Stedman 11th Conn. Vols. is assigned to the command of the 2d Brig. 2d Div. vice Wistar promoted to command of 2d Div.

6
Yorktown Va, Apl 27

All officers and soldiers wives and families have been ordered to leave this command. Mrs. Genl. Wistar, Mrs. Lt. Beecher (wife of the Son of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, Lt of Battery "L" 4th regular Arty) and several other ladies took advantage of the special boat by which General Smith went to Ft Monroe at one P.M. noon. The regular mail boat "Thos A. Morgan" has changed her time. She now leaves Ft Monroe at 10 a. m arriving here 12.30 P.M. leaves here at 2 P.M. and arrives at Ft Monroe making connection with the Baltimore boat which leaves Ft Monroe at 5.

Yorktown. Va. Apl 26th

Genl. Wistar removed his Hd Qrs today to the Whitaker House on [illegible] this side of Ft Magruder

United States Military Telegraph.

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By Telegraph from Yorktown

Dated April 30th 1864.

To

Major Genl. Butler, Major General Smith, Brig Genls Brooks Heckman, Weitzel & Marston review the 18th Army Corps upon the plains below Yorktown and the 10th Corps at Gloucester Point today.

May 1st

A brigade of the 10th Corps embarked on transports steamers last night and landed at West Point at ten (10) o'clock this morning. They are building wharves &c. under the protection of our gunboats. The 1st & 2d U. S. Colored Cavalry went to Williamsburg this morning. Col West Cav. Div. formerly Post Commander at York

Thompson commanding the Brigade
& Acting Brig Gen. of Cav

May 3d

a building party to build tel-
graph line up the Peninsula
will be here tomorrow.
This has been an awful day with
me. I have sat here in this chair
all day long and until twelve
o'clock at night sending and receiving
messages. I have sent eighty
nine telegrams and probably
received as many and so busy
have been that I have had no
time to sleep. The busiest day
I have ever had telegraphing sent
eighty nine messages

May 4th

All the troops are embarking
on light draft steamers and barges
all day. There has been a continual
stream of men on their way to the
wharves. This afternoon a building
party and two operators came up

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from

Dated 1864.

?

To

and have gone to [illegible]
commenced to build line tomorrow on
using [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and take
in their [illegible] [illegible] from I have
a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the
1st N. Y. [illegible] [illegible]. Major
Genl. [illegible] arrived at [illegible]
of the R. R. and takes command
of his old corps at once
Everything is [illegible] forward
by tomorrow morning. they will
probably have [illegible] [illegible] at
[illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible]
Received a letter from [illegible]
this P.M. from [illegible] [illegible]

May 5th

Oh how dull — Everything in shape of soldier has gone up James River to Richmond. Heavy firing heard on York River today about 10 a. m. and gunboats shelling the woods. No news from the front. Lonesome here with nothing to do and plenty of time to do it in.

Yorktown May 6th

Very dull today. Telegraph line completed to Jamestown Island this evening and we have information that Petersburg is in possession of our troops. That is very good to begin with.

Jamestown Island.
on James River.
May 7th 1864

about eleven o'clock this a. m. at Yorktown, I received orders from Mr. Sheldon to proceed immediately to Jamestown Island to report upon arrival to Mr. O'Brien. So I packed up. procured an ambulance and

United States Military Telegraph

By Telegraph from

Dated 1864.

To 11th

about two P.M. left Yorktown in which place I had been over eight months. It was a very warm day but we drove fast. Arrived at Fort Magruder about 4 P.M. Had to wait one hour for escort. At five P.M. I started in ambulances and with an escort of twelve colored cavalry, passed through Williamsburg and took the road for Jamestown Island. In this trip I passed over sixteen miles of the same road on which I marched when with the army of the Potomac in the retreat from Harrison's Landing [illegible] But ~~it~~ under very different circumstances. Then I was with the regiment laboring under the heavy load of sixty rounds of cartridges four days rations, blanket, shelter tent and musket in the middle of August, and in the dust. Now I passed over the same road with an am-

10 [illegible] for myself and baggage and a [illegible] of cavalry to [illegible] me from [illegible] Williamsburg, and I [illegible] [illegible] the difference. I arrived [illegible] night safely and found my [illegible] glad to see me. Mr. [illegible] is not here. He has gone up the river in a dispatch boat.

Jamestown Island, Va
May 8th 1862

This island is much larger than I expected. It is a large and at one time a very fine plantation. Our office is in the only building on the Island that has a roof, and we are going to move this [illegible] into a tent at the wharf. The old ruins of Jamestown, that is the old tower and graveyard, are still visible and mark the spot where the first settlement was made in Virginia. There are two abandoned forts on the island built by the rebs in the first year of the rebellion, and show that they were abandoned in great haste, as there are two dismounted guns in each fort, with carriages burnt, trunnions knocked off and otherwise disabled. This is what I have been [illegible] on

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from Bermuda Hundred. Va,

Dated September 6th 1864.

To Dear Folks at Home,

I received a letter this morning from Fannie, dated Aug. 29th, the first one from here for over two months. she has probably written you often, and the same that she wrote me. Last night we had a terrible thunder storm, and were very thankful that we were lucky enough to have a roof over our heads. The heaviest part of it was about eleven o'clock. Mr. Munson was on duty and I was sleeping. He woke me up saying the lightning was snapping in the relay, (instrument) Sure enough it was cracking like a gun cap every minute. I connected the ground and line wires as soon as possible, but it was too late. The lightning had burnt at least through two layers of wire in the spools, and injured it

[illegible]

2

so as to be irrepairable by us another relay was sent down this morning, I let them know what the trouble was by tapping the two wires together, although I could not receive any answer, This morning the repairer and I rode up to Hed. Qrs. Saw Mr. O'Brien and explained about the relay. O.K." He had my vouchers for June and July which I signed and returned. For those two months my salary was $80 per. mo. less Revenue tax which for June was 3 per. ct. and for July 5 per. ct. making my salary for June $79.10 and for July $78.50. The tax is on all over 50 dollars per. mo. I do not understand why they only raised my salary ten dollars while all others the raised fifteen, They have raised it fifteen since I was at Yorktown but not since June 1st as with all others, but I will stay here this winter and meanwhile be looking out for a good situation on some other line. I received the letter from Fannie while I was at Hed. Qrs. after remaining there to dinner we came home flying --

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from

Dated 1864.

8

To

Wednesday, Sept 7th, 1864

I took the ~~the~~ 9 P.M. boat and went to City Point, after visiting the boys at Genl. Grants Hd Qrs went down to the Quarter Master storehouse and bought me a pair of heavy, blue, cavalry pants, my black ones having wore through I sold them for 1.00 and paid $1.5 for the cavalry pants. I came home on the 5 P.M. mail boat. Genl. Butler returned from his leave of absence this afternoon.

There is to be a railroad built from here to the front, about five miles, and the route has already been surveyed. The roads are terrible during the rainy season, wagons sinking in below the hub. Even empty wagons are sometimes stalled in the mud. The supplies for an army cannot be hauled over such roads, therefore a rail road is to be built, and this will be the permanent base of supplies. It will increase the business of this office but I shall not regret that at all, for now there are two operators one of us is loafing or visiting all the time, and it needs a good business to keep us in practice.

Friday - Sept 9th -

This morning having obtained permission I started with a building party and rode to Jones Neck on the James River where a cable was laid across the river at the upper pontoon bridge to Deep Bottom where Genl. Paines command of colored troops is located. I had never seen a telegraph cable laid, and took this opportunity to have my seeing propensities gratified. It was first stretched across on the bridge, and then thrown overboard when the tide which was running out soon carried it to the bottom. The water at that point is sixty feet deep, which gives the place the name of Deep Bottom. You have doubtless read about the canal being dug at Dutch Gap by Genl. Butler's command. The man who owns the land commenced digging a canal at the same place several years ago, but was stopped by the Virginia Legislature who feared that the dirt washed out of the canal would lodge in the river at Harrison's Bar near Harrison's Landing, and obstruct navigation [p. 3 of [illegible]] [1864]

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from

Dated 1864.

3

To

of a time like the present.
I do not think I shall have an
opportunity of writing another
I can but be brief. If I had
been sent a note for me I would
like but as I
be with the actual military encampment
am not in the
you ask me if I have received a
letter from cousin Mary Winters
lately. No I have received none
since August 11th. I think your
taking Cousin Anna is a first
rate plan for she will be good
company for you

[illegible] this is important.

Tuesday Oct 18th.

This morning Dr. Rumsey who has
been sick with the jaundice for about
two weeks obtained a leave of absence
of ten days and left for the North
on this morning's boat. One fellow

he has been suffering from a severe attack of the "Blues", caused by having a little fit of sickness and a wife to bother him by writing letters wishing he would come home, and all this, and still with all my eloquence I could not get him to say that he was sorry he was a married man, but then that is natural you know, if you get into a bad scrape make the best of it. Now I think a telegraph operator with the army has no business to be married, and most of them think the same way. I believe there are but two married operators in the armies of the James or Potomac. I am again alone in an important office while there are two operators at City Pt. where they do not have half a dozen messages a day. Indeed all along they have acted towards me as though they thought I was equal to any situation, and could do

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from Bermuda Hundred

Dated October 16th 1864.

To Dear Parents.

Since I have returned to Bermuda and have taken up the old routine, I will resume my 'Daily Journal' for my own benefit if not for yours. I wrote a letter to you this morning. This evening I received a letter from Sarah. She seems quite contented and satisfied both with herself and school. I really hope she will fulfill her highest hopes. She thinks that my experience in the army will be of as much benefit to me as three years of college life. Perhaps it will, but I cannot but wish that I had three years of schooling in addition to my experience. What is [illegible] experience has shown

2

what a good education is worth, I am afraid I shall find it rather hard to bring my mind to studying again, Indeed I find it here. I have a work on telegraphing philosophy &c. and am studying that, but I often find myself thinking of something else besides my book. In your letter of Sept 21st you say "Father brought home a paper directed to you if it reaches you you will have reading matter enough for one day". I have never received any paper except the Democrat since I was at home, How was it sent and do you remember the marks on it, Speaking of the Democrat, it comes quite regular lately, and is very welcome although it contains nothing but local news and running down McClellan. Not that I wish to see him President, but I don't like to see so much political strife [p. 5 of letter of Sept. 6, 1864] 89

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from ____________________

Dated ____________________ 1864.

To ____________ 5

entirely. But our engineers have no such fears they say the dirt will follow the bottom of the river until it comes to Deep Bottom where it will lodge and fill in, and not go up hill into shallow water again. But we shall soon see which is right. They are now using dredging machines in the canal and I suppose it will soon be ready for use, When Sarah is away I guess I will hear from Father and Mother once in a while. It seems to me as though one of us children ought to remain at home with you, but I suppose it is impossible at present. I will do the next thing to it. I will write you very often unless you get tired with reading them. I have received but two Democrats, the last one was dated Aug. 17th. I think I would have done better to have had it delivered to Father and had him mail it to me. I do not understand why it don't come regularly

Sunday - Sept 11th

No letter from home yet. The last rec'd was on the 29th aug. Write to me soon for I receive very few letters, and as I receive no Democrats I have to rely wholly upon you and Horace Pond for all news from Elyria. We are having very fine weather, not very warm during the day and quite cool at night, good weather for sleeping if the musquitoes were not quite so fierce in their attacks. I have plenty of blankets and clothing for this winter. I have two complete suits, one entirely military, - cap, vest, blouse and cavalry pants, - the other "the civilian" (although not very civil) hat, linen coat, pants & vest. The linen coat won't answer much longer this year however, and I think I shall make the blouse last. If the pay-master comes down this week as expected I shall send you some more money. My expenditures in July were $51.95 and in August $55.85. I cant lay up much money at that rate. It will not do for me to go home very often, but must be satisfied to remain away for at least one year "if the war so long continue." Is it $265;

[p. 5 of letter of Oct. 1864]

United States Military Telegraph.

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By Telegraph from ....

Dated .... 1864.

To 5

men make the two or three one
box shelves. I know that any
boxes don't go far but I also
know that some little practical
results in all ways than many
who have worked at the business
for years

How it is (Oct 20th) & I have not
written you a word for several days
In my last I wrote you to try
and send me one of Edmunds Bags
but I have a good bag now and
therefore requested you not to send
it. If it was too late and you
have bought it send it along
I am still well and have enough
work to keep me busy all the time.
but Gunson will be back soon

few days and then I am out a little. I expect the army in this vicinity will not lay still much longer. There will yet be hard fighting this fall in front of Richmond. I continue in excellent health and am enjoying myself as best I can, trying to keep myself and those around me in good spirits - not by pouring spirits down however. I have had nothing of interest to write you within the past few days. Everything is exceedingly quiet, although we hear firing in the front every day and sometimes all night. The Johnnies have erected a new battery on the left of the Bermuda Hundred line for the purpose of destroying "Weitzel's Monument" (a high signal tower) and last night there was heavy firing in that direction all night. If you can put up butter in a portable shape I wish you would send me a box - invest the six dollars, and more if it is not too much trouble to you. We have to pay 75 & 80 cents

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from

Dated 1864.

To 7

for miserable butter. With butter
& condensed milk we live first
rate on our government rations
I send you four dollars in
this to make it even ten dollars
Send the box by Express "D. Y."
It seems a long time since I
recd a letter from home (one
week) Write me soon as you
can. Your Aff Son.

Isaac.

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from Bermuda Hundred.
Dated Jany 20th 1865:
Evening.
To Dear Mother.

Your welcome and interesting letter of the 15th is just received, I have neglected to write to you because I have been expecting daily to receive the box of butter &c. I supposed to have been shipped about the 1st or before, Father wrote in his letter of Dec 28th that he intended to ship it the next morning. But as yet I can find no trace of it. I have inquired almost daily here and at City Point and have telegraphed to Fortress Monroe, but it has not yet arrived there, Please send in your next the receipt you received from Mr. Bowen, with the full address as the box was marked so I will find it somewhere, You ask if I have heard anything from Brandon. Not a word either by telegraph or etter, although for over a week, I was expecting a despatch and was ready to go to Washington any day. But I suppose he is at Savannah long ere this, I am sorry I could not see him, but it cannot be helped now, I should not be at all surprised if I should be a hundred miles or more nearer him than I am now within a month, Two Divisions and part of another from the "army of the James" are now at Fort Fisher, of which you have doubtless heard through the papers, There is a report, and from a very reliable source, that the balance of the 24th Corps is to join Genl. Terry near Wilmington, and if it should prove correct a party of telegraphers will go from this army, I saw Wm. O'Brien yesterday and he said, if he went himself he should take me with him, although I did not ask him to, I like the idea very much. You need have no fears about my getting into trouble on account of my trip to the Army of the Potomac, I flatter myself to be of too much service

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from Bermuda Hundred. Va.

Dated Feby 8th 1865.

To Dear Father,

Your welcome letter of Jany 29th was received yesterday. Am still at the old place, although I expected at one time last week to leave it. On Friday Mr. O'Brien received orders from Maj Eckert to proceed to Ft. Monroe and report to Maj. Genl Schofield as his cipher and chief operator at Newberne N. C. He told me he expected to send back for me upon his arrival at Fortress Monroe but he has not done so yet. He complimented me very highly. He said he had rather take me with him than any other operator in this Dept. which I think is saying a good deal. I may be ordered south at any hour and am prepared to go when so ordered, If I telegraph you "Don't write until you hear from me again" you will know what is up. Mr. Emerick from the Army of the Potomac is now our chief operator. He and I are good friends, he having been an operator in the War Dept. when I was there. So I am, perhaps as well off as I would have been if Mr. O'Brien had remained I would like to go to Newberne and so would nearly every other operator in this Dept. One inducement is that I would have an opportunity of seeing Woodard occasionaly. I took another trip to the army of the Potomac last week. Left here at 10 A.M Tuesday morning (Jan. 31st) and City Point by cars at 10.50, at Parke Station as the cars stopped for a minute a man got off from his horse and came on to the platform of the cars and who should it be but Eddie

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from...

Dated ...... 1864.

1

2

To........

Monteith I had but a minute to
speak to him and as the cars
were moving on, I understood
him to say that he was in
the Q.M. Dept. 2d Brig. 2d Div.
5th A.C. I proceeded to Patrick
Station the terminus of the
road and walked to the camp
of the 4th Ohio a distance of
about a mile, the boys were all
at home and glad to see me.
I remained in camp until early
Thursday morning when Abbott
took me by horse to Mason
Station, where I waited until I
was tired and started for Parke
Station a-foot, arriving there
I spent about two hours walking

from one camp to another in search of Ed. Monteith but I could not find him. He was not where I understood him to say. We have another item of interest near here now. The U. S. (iron-clad) Steamer "New-Ironsides" the best naval vessel in the world is lying in the river off this place. She arrived here Jany 26th, and the next day one of her engineers, an ex-operator paid me a visit and invited me on board. So Sunday the 29th, I accepted the invitation and visited the iron monster. It was well worth the trouble. She is about 300 feet long, by fifty wide has 16 eleven inch Dahlgren columbiads, one 150 pdr parrott, and and seven lighter pieces. She has five inches of iron plating outside of heavy timbers, and has a powerful ram. I visited

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from

Dated 1864.

To

every part of here and took dinner aboard, and altogether had a very pleasant time. The rebel rams can come down now as soon as they please, for this boat alone would destroy them all, I will send by express tomorrow a bo containing some woolen socks for which I have no use, a vest the back of which "is not" and a key, sounder, and switch, captured by Genl. Kautz from the enemy on the Weldon R.R. early last spring, and presented to me by Mr. O'Brien. The key and switch I connected so they can be put in a circuit & used together. They are old fashioned the keys now in use have a switch or circuit closer attached. Keep them and I will try and bring home a pocket relay and we will fix up a little battery and have a line and complete apparatus of our own. How will that do? You get an old register, and the next county fair, I will have a sounder in one building and you the register in the other a line connecting them, and show the "people" how the thing is done. I have not heard from Woodard yet except what you have written me. but hope to soon am glad to learn that you have a sight for a good situation but I wish it was somewhere besides on the train, for there is considerable danger there. However I suppose it is the best you can do, at present. I wish you would write me

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from ....

Dated .... 1864.

To .... 4 ....

more about Uncle Alanson, in Pittsburg
I know that he is a druggist &
there, and that is all. You know
I do not think of following telegraphy
for a living after the war, I think
of going in to some kind of
commerce, I like the druggist.
Now if I could furnish a cash
capital of two or three thousand
dollars, to put in with a man
who is an old hand at the
business and has established
a good reputation, and I go in
as a clerk until I had become
"learned in medicine" and in trade
when my share in the firm would
entitle me to a junior partnership
I think some arrangement of that

kind could be made with a great many merchants, What think you: this is one of my "air castles" or leading lines, that may amount to something or nothing as future events shall decide. Perhaps the "two or three thousand dollars" is a high figure, but it may not be if the war continues much longer. We have been making some alterations in the little church this week, which we think improves it as an office, but which the "inhabitants" when they return will hardly call an improvement as a church. We have run a partition under the edge of the gallery with a door near the stairs; It makes two rooms out of one, an operating room & a kitchen, when formerly it was all in one. We have a cook stove in the kitchen and it makes it very pleasant. The partition has

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from ……………………………

Dated ………………… 1864.

To ………………… 5

called my artistic powers into play and I have papered it with engravings from Leslie and Harper's Illustrated papers, & the boys say it is splendid, and of course where my own actions are to be judged I am not supposed to know. We have not yet been paid but the pay-master is now at City Pt and will probably be here tomorrow when I will receive pay for four months, Oct. Nov. Dec. & Jany. I will receive I think $291.53 after taking out receipts from my salary. I will send you $250. by express, which please invest in 7-30 bonds, for I see they

are rapidly selling out.
Geo Munson who was with me
here last fall has returned and
is now working with me again.
No more tonight. Write again
soon. With much love to all

I remain
Your Aff Son,
Horace.

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

.... 1865

By Telegraph from 1865

To ....

Bermuda Hundred, Va
March 12th 1865.

Dear Parents

It is Sunday, weather pleasant, sun shining brightly, and a March wind, that with the aid of the sun will soon dry up the mud & leave the way for active operations in this army. For the last three days it has been very pleasant, the two days preceding that it rained steadily. You cannot imagine how soon the mud here at the landing becomes dry. Twenty-four hours ago a person could not get from this office to the wharf without getting into the mud ankle deep. Now you cannot find any mud unless you take the middle of the road for it. Back from the river in the level country of course it takes much longer to dry

I don't know what to write about & I commenced this letter for the simple reason that I had nothing else to do. The Navy Department have been sending up the James river a large fleet of iron clads & double enders. Whether they intend to make a dash up the river or whether it is merely a precautionary measure, fearing that the rebel rams may come down I can't say. I presume there are twenty naval vessels of all kinds between there & the obstructions at Dutch Gap. When you decide upon the house in Sandusky you must write me all about it. What part of the City, kind of house, neighbors &c. Is Mr. Chaffee still at Elyria? When you go away I am going to write to him. I want one correspondent at least in Elyria.

I send you in this a letter about the 7 Bos. It is quite interesting. Have you invested my money yet? This will probably be the last loan given out. I expect to move the office some time this week to a new building. The Ch. Q. Master has

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

1865

By Telegraph from 1865

To

2

put up for us near the wharf and his own office. He will be much better off there than here on account of the mud, and will be right in town. Here we are almost in the woods. I am satisfied to remain here but it will be better for all hands to move. It will be nearer to our business. Besides they are commencing out with stables & wagon yards so as to make it very unpleasant outside although it is very comfortable within. Everything is very quiet here. Hardly anything doing. I have a fine little horse and every other day when it is pleasant I take a ride for the benefit of my health. I paid twenty dollars for him & have already been offered eighty-five for him.

him. Chaffee tell him what I
said about writing to him.
Same as this time, I expect to
get a letter from you tomorrow
and I will then write you again
With much love

I remain

Yours

Florence

Farmville, Va. South Side R.R.
69 miles west of Petersburg, Va.
55 " east of Lynchburg, Va.
Saturday, April 8th, 1865, 6.30 a.m.

Dear Parents,

I promised to write to you as often as I could, and as we are lying in town today I will write you a letter. I am in the Methodist Church which Genl Ord occupies as his Hd. Qrs. Am sitting on a foot stool and using a seat as a table. Firstly I will copy from my diary events as they have occurred since my last letter up to the present time. We were at Wilson's Station when I mailed my last. Therefore —

Wednesday April 5th

"Started from Wilson's Station about 6 A.M. march-
"ing all day and until midnight when we
"reached Burkeville, the Junction of the Richmond
"~~&~~ Danville, and Petersburg & Lynchburg (South
"Side) Rail Roads. Burkeville is 52 miles from
"Petersburg, 71 from Lynchburg, 53 from Richmond
"and 87 from Danville. It was after 1 A.M.
(6th) before we had had our coffee and turned
"in. By Rail Road we have marched just
"twenty five miles today but by the wagon
"road it is full thirty miles, and it
"is reported that we are ahead of Lee's
"army. Not having a tent we had "to "bunk
"it" on the ground, and as it rained a
"little before morning we necessarily had
"wet blankets in the morning.

Thursday, April 6th

"Our tents were pitched about 10 A.M. and
"we just had time to move into them
"when it commenced raining. Nichols and
"I walked up to the Station where a tele-
"graph office has been opened in the office
"formerly used by the rebel operator.
"He left his local batteries behind him,
"probably had to "dig out" in a hurry.
"Did not break camp at all today.

"This P.M. we had a rain storm for about two hours. This evening Genl. Ord rode into camp and reported that there had been a battle today, that Sheridan and the 6th Corps had captured nine generals, fifty pieces of artillery and ten thousand prisoners. Good for that. Genl Ord has ordered orderlies and team to go with him to the front at Farmville at 6 A.M. tomorrow morning."

Friday, April 7th.

"Operators started at 6 A.M. with instrument wagon and orderly to follow the rail road track to see that the wire was all right, while I taking it more leisurely got my breakfast and started at 8 A.M. with the team by the wagon road. It rained for about an hour making the roads very bad and we had to wait three hours for wagon trains before we could get across the creek about two miles east of Farmville. Reached Hd. Qrs. in the latter place about 5 P.M. and had a supper of biscuit, coffee, bacon, butter and molasses which is something very extra on this march. Farmville is quite a large place, in fact the only town that we have yet passed through. Genl. Ord's Hd. Qrs. are in the Methodist Church and I am bunking between two pews on the floor. There is a female seminary here full of pretty girls but as they have not sent out any invitations we have not yet had the honor of their acquaintance. Genl. Lee and his army took breakfast in this town this morning. Genl Grant and army takes supper here tonight and we took something besides. The 24th Reg. took seven pieces of artillery from the enemy this P.M.

Today

we are waiting in town, for something. Guess what that something is. I have it from a Brig. Genl. on Genl. Ord's staff that last night Genl. Lee sent in a proposition to Genl. Grant to surrender his army. That Genls Grant and Lee are at this moment engaged in the negotiations,

It seems most too good to be true 113
and still I believe it for we are on
both sides of Lee and in his rear and
parts of his trains are being cut off
every day. He cannot travel as rapidly
as we can on account of his horses,
they are very poor and cannot haul his
trains as fast as our men can march.
I am in excellent health since leaving
Bermuda and enjoy campaigning very
much, much more than I did when soldiering for I had to "foot it" then. I expect
to be with you very soon now for
the surrender of Lee's army will end the
war. I will not close this until afternoon when I will know more of what
is going to be done.

Appomattox C.H. Va. 25 miles east
of Lynchburg on South Side R.R.
April 9th 1865 – 8 P.M.

After writing the above I went away to the telegraph office and worked with Lt. Brink and [illegible] all day
until 1:30 P.M. when our wagon came down the
river reporting that Gen'l Ord had left [illegible].
So we jumped in and started and rode all the
afternoon and until 3 o'clock this morning when
we halted and rested until 5 A.M. We
"bunked" down on the ground without having any
supper, and had to start this morning before
we had had our breakfast. But we eat
some hard tack and molasses in the wagon
while on the road, and when we halted for
a few minutes jumped out and made coffee in
a house beside the road. We rode all day
[illegible] made a hard days march
for the troops. They marched about thirty
miles which I think is faster than [illegible]
or Sherman's armies ever moved. The roads
was very rough for we are approaching
the vicinity of the mountains. Today we
rode until about 12 m. when we reached
this vicinity and after [illegible] up to the
front found that Gen'l Grant and Lee and
their subordinates were holding a consultation
at the little town of Appomattox C. H. the
two armies being drawn up in line of battle
with arms stacked at 3 P.M. [illegible]

Surrendered with his entire command to Gen. Grant, the strength of the rebel army is not known exactly, but it is between 18,000 and 25,000 men. There was quite a battle fought here today, the 24th Corps making a gallant charge. I saw several dead rebel officers, this morning Sheridan made a charge and captured 30 pieces of artillery, with many prisoners, and I saw his cavalry have 34 captured rebel battle flags as they passed to the rear but whether they were all captured this morning or not I do not know. I walked as near the Court House as I could [illegible] but could not pass the line of battle (the C. H. being between the two lines) I could see the rebel army very plainly. I picked a blossom off from a peach tree which stood on the line which I send to Sarah as a relic, for the surrender of this army will be a piece of note in the History of this war. The rebel army are to be paroled tomorrow. And I believe a general [illegible] and [illegible] of armys will take place. If so I shall be [illegible] I [illegible] glad I came on this march for I [illegible] the way of Petersburg and Richmond and see both of those places and then go Home [illegible] the East as many [illegible] besides I am very sorry I do not know [illegible] addition to all the [illegible] of the Army of the Potomac have been passed by us or have passed us on this march but I have not been able to find him. Such glorious news capturing an army of 60,000 men within nine days. This is the greatest victory ever gained in this [illegible], will go to bed now, I think I can sleep well on this news, will add to this tomorrow. Yours Horace.

[1865]

[illegible]

Appomattox C. H. Va. April [illegible],

The surrender has taken place and [illegible] everything settled. At 8 o'clock this morning Genl. Ord's Hd. Qrs. was broken up and moved into town, [illegible] a house near the Court house was an assembly of generals and staff officers. Genl. Lee had been in town this morning but had gone back to his army before we [illegible] I saw the rebel generals Longstreet, Heth, Gordon, Pickett, [illegible], and others, and on our side Generals [illegible], Meade, Ord, Gibbon, Sheridan, Griffin, [illegible], Crawford and many others. Officers and men of the two armies mingled together and talked of war affairs. I have spent [illegible] in conversation [illegible] with the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible]. He lives in Richmond and expects to go there when paroled and I expect to go there too soon and we may meet again.

This has not been an ordinary battle surrender like Burgoyne's or Cornwallis', that is to march out and there stack their arms, receive their paroles and return. There may be said [illegible] [illegible], and Genl. Ord and staff have returned to Richmond and fifty of [illegible] [illegible] corps. Genl. Gibbon [illegible] [illegible] to go to Richmond with [illegible], but the taking charge of the [illegible] [illegible] made it impossible to let us go [illegible] [illegible] one to deliver [illegible] [illegible] Corps Hd. Qrs. [illegible] probably [illegible] [illegible] Lynchburg in a few days. Genl. Gibbon occupies the Court House as Corps Hd. Qrs. We have taken possession of a pretty little building that was [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] nicely. There is not much of a village [illegible] [illegible] buildings [illegible] [illegible] inhabitants have fled. I do not know when this letter will leave [illegible] [illegible] to get [illegible] regular [illegible] I have not [illegible] ground and went since march 29th, which is by no fault of trains. We are out of [illegible] communication just now. The [illegible] is 22 miles from here at Burkesville Station on the Rail Road. We have had fine weather nearly all the time until last night when we [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and today it is very muddy.

S — 3.00 P.M.

We have had to move out of our house and move into a tent, which is not an improvement by any means. This P.M. the cavalry of the rebel army came in and stacked their arms and returned taking their horses with them. The infantry will probably come in tomorrow. Some of the artillery has also been brought in. It will be several days before all the paroles can be fixed and all the [illegible] [illegible] sent to the [illegible] [illegible] paroled (?). Meantime we will make ourselves as comfortable as possible here, and [illegible] then get ready for another [illegible] [illegible]. We both have been very comfortable for our baggage, when we [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I will be able to finish this meanwhile, I will continue to make additions and [illegible].

[illegible] P.M. April 11th

The surrender goes on slowly, so slowly that I am afraid we will remain here a day or two longer. You can imagine what an immense amount of writing has to be done, to issue [illegible] paroles, to make out rolls of each regiment, to make inventories of all the artillery, wagons, ambulances, horses, mules, [illegible] arms, accoutrements, ammunition, and quartermaster and commissary stores, to turn over the same to our quartermasters who have to furnish transportation for all this property to City Point. All questions about private property have also to be settled, [illegible] [illegible] to be done before we can move, the prisoners also [illegible] [illegible] to their homes.

whether the same be within our lines or not; parole that is they give their word of honor, and take an oath that they will keep the same, to return to their homes and not take up arms again until they are duly exchanged as prisoners of war. Thousands of them pass to the rear every day, we furnish transportation for them to their homes if the same be within our lines, or to the nearest point to their homes where they are sent through the lines. I have been an eye-witness of the whole affair on the 9th [illegible] [illegible] & Lee met at the [illegible] House and asked as to the terms of surrender. I did not witness their interview. On the 10th yesterday I saw the rebel officers come in to receive their paroles, Gen. Lee, Longstreet, Pickett, Heath, Gordon, Fitzhugh Lee, Ex Gov. Wise, Mahone, Col. [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] Col. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], & many others & today I have seen the rebel infantry stack arms and [illegible] their parole & passes, also their artillery, wagon and ambulance trains come in & go into park in our rear. Being just come in [illegible] that the bag of [illegible] has [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with a lot of artillery, ammunition &c. We may not at all be [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

You will hear through the papers of the movements of the 24th A.C. before my letters will reach you. A mail is about to start for Petersburg so I'll close this & send it along. Don't know when you will hear from me again but I will keep a good Diary. Until then Good bye, this leaves me in the best of health and spirits. Love to all [illegible].

Your affec Son
Horace.

I have captured a large Latin Lexicon which I will try and send home to Sarah as a double present, of trophy and school-book. I have also a Latin Grammar and Reader such as I used at School & Greene's First Lessons in French which I'm going to try and take home.

H.

You must keep Sarah informed of my whereabouts for I cannot keep up my weekly correspondence with here for the present,

[illegible]

[illegible] the above date, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] morning, [illegible]
Rode out this morning and [illegible]
[illegible] army [illegible] this [illegible]
[illegible] of our army [illegible]

[illegible], attacked the [illegible]

[illegible] prisoners [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] the R. R. depot [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] and made the
and found [illegible] [illegible] the Country,
[illegible] and visit [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
to the [illegible], [illegible]
and garden! [illegible] [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] all night, [illegible]
[illegible] very hospitable, but we take the
the [illegible] with
[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] about [illegible] with [illegible]
[illegible], a [illegible] with [illegible], and [illegible]
[illegible] over [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] and [illegible]

The [illegible] is [illegible] and the [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] impossible [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] and the

[illegible]

[illegible]

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

_____ 1865

By Telegraph from _____ 1863

To _____

Richmond Va Apl 24th 65

Dear Sister Sarah.

Your kind letter of the 16th inst I received this A.M. it being the first mail of any kind that I have recd since March 28th, [illegible] why, I have been during the intervening month where mail matter could not reach me, [illegible] have marched [illegible] at last arriving here at 12 M yesterday from Burkeville via Petersburg by R.R. today I have spent in riding around the city seeing the sights with some of [illegible] who have been here since the evacuation & [illegible] would [illegible] that there is [illegible] I do not envy them the [illegible] times that they have had for I have [illegible] many things that they have not & [illegible] all that they have seen, I will [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible] last letter to me was [illegible] Wilson's Station of 4th [illegible] I have written to my father few times since then, & not once there. They must keep you posted about my movements. I suppose they sent my letters to you. My reason for not writing to you alone was that my facilities for so doing were so poor that it was misery to write at all. I have not heard from home since March 9th. My letters were left at the Custom House Office here until the day before I left Burkeville, when they were forwarded to 24th Corps Hd. Qrs. I expect to receive them tomorrow. My last letter home was from Burkeville, Apl 20th. We expected then to remain at Burkeville several days, as the whole Army of the Potomac had been resting & waiting there for some days. But on the 21st Gen. Gibbon received orders to move with his command to Richmond by the easiest route. He immediately issued orders for his troops to move at 5 A.M. on the 22d. We (Nichols & I) obtained permission to go to Richmond by Rail Road, and left Burkeville at 7.40 A.M. 23d reaching Petersburg at 1 P.M. Found we could not leave for Richmond until 9 o'clock the next morning so we went to Telegraph office & [illegible] ourselves at home. During the afternoon I walked all over the city & found that our batteries had done much more damage to the city than I had imagined. Hardly a house in town but what has some mark of our shells. Petersburg is like most other southern cities, that I have seen, old fash-

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

1865

By Telegraph from 1865

To

towers, manufactories &c. Of course there are many fine buildings both public & private but there is something about the place that shows lack of energy & ambition in the inhabitants. We left Petersburg at 9 [illegible] Sunday morning 23rd by the Richmond & Petersburg R.R. & enjoyed the ride very much the road being one of the best in the country, very level, straight & smooth. Passing along the "Bermuda front" I saw the signal tower "Butler's monument" as it was called at Point of Rocks, I could also see some of our fortifications near Pt of Rocks, which I had seen so many times looking from the other side of these lines. We reached Manchester on the opposite side of James River from Richmond at 10.30 A.M. The rebs burned the bridges connecting Richmond & Manchester when they left. Now two pontoon bridges are used. An ambulance met us at Manchester & carried ourselves & baggage to Spotswood.

the Custom House. Here we found all the operators from the Army of the James & were welcomed by many manifestations of joy. Mr. Emmick told me there were the six operators at the Custom House office & that he wished I would go to "Rocketts" & work with Munson for a few days & he would arrange things so I should come to Custom House office; as I am no great genius I made no objection & came here to Rocketts.

The Custom House is on Main street near the Capitol. It is Dept Hd. Qrs. Line Office & is also the main city office.

"Rocketts" is in the 1st ward below Libby Hill, in the lower part of the city 1½ miles from the Custom House.

It is the steamboat landing, forage and supply depot, &c of Richmond. It is the highest point shipping can reach, just opposite where large rocks obstruct navigation, giving it the name "Rocketts". The Depot Qr. Master's, Depot Commissary, Master of Water Transportation, & forage master's offices are here. We do very little telegraphing & that is one reason that I wish to work in the main office, — the operator at Custom House just told me that a letter for me had come by tonight's mail "Post Mark: Ohio." It may be from you or it may be from home so I will not close this letter until I get it.

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

1865

By Telegraph from 1863

To (3)

Apl 25th 1865. home

Have just received the letter from the Custom House. It is from you dated April 10th rather old but still young & very welcome to me. You say "you must write me all the particulars "that have come under your observation which "you know will interest me," I wish I could have written to you as often as I did home, but I could not do it. I wrote to them fully all that I saw on the march & in camp. [illegible] usually now but I presume they have sent you the letters before this. You [illegible] about my being at home in time for haying, I did indeed forget that the warm weather that we have been having for the last month you would not see for two or three months yet. Why it has been summer here for six weeks & I try sitting in the sun although protected by a hat have become so tanned that one of my friends said if he had seen me in different company he would not have known me. [illegible]

I was as white as a girl, but now I am an indian or mulatto I hardly know which. However I don't think my being tanned will injure my health any, and it is somewhat the summer season is hotter, [illegible] the gardens in this vicinity are in fine order. We have had lettuce for some time, & peas new potatoes &c. are in some gardens 2 feet high, How is it with you? I do not know when I can come home, Perhaps not at all. Perhaps if they offer me a good office in the south at a good salary, I shall live here. Of course I will go home & see you first. I could go home now if I wished to, by resigning, as they have plenty of applicants & will let anyone off that wishes to go. But I shall hold on for a while yet, & see what is going to be done with all the good offices. So, the Richmond is the cleanest & most modern built city, that I have yet seen, its streets are wide, well paved, & kept clean, the style of the buildings is like those of northern cities, & there are very few of the old fashioned, sloping roofed, gable windowed moss covered houses that are seen in Alexandria, Norfolk, Petersburg & Fredericksburg. The principal thoroughfare, Main St. reminds one very much of Penn. Avenue, Washington. You can stand on Libby Hill at one end of town and look down the long street to the Capitol & beyond, just as you may stand on Capitol Hill Washington and look down Penn. Ave. to the Treasury Dept & beyond to Georgetown, [illegible] in the same

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

1865

By Telegraph from 1865

To

ture in the state at the [illegible] Halls of
the different public buildings all [illegible]
with about the same distinctions for
~~the~~ Lord & [illegible] [illegible] in the two
cities. Yesterday I rode through the city
taking a sort of [illegible] view of the whole
& no particular view of anything, I will
not describe any of the places of interest
now but wait until I can see them
more leisurely. Brother Philip is here
at [illegible] with Capt [illegible] A.Q.M.
and I see each other often. The boys [illegible]
[illegible] about having for you, I could not
bring along for want of transportation
[illegible] I left it with my [illegible]
[illegible] that when I went to
Lynchburg & did not see my baggage
again until we reached [illegible] Station
on the return march. A [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] it & thought he wanted it more
than I did & so walked off with it.
I would have locked it in my chest but it

[illegible] full of other States,
Send your letters to me Med. Dir. Office
Dept. [illegible] Cuate. Army, Richmond
will write no more at present. I am not
[illegible] feeling well. Have good prospects, you
[illegible] ought to be as [illegible] I am, [illegible]
Please remember me to Miss. Wheeler
Will write you again in a few days.
With much love
Your Aff [illegible]
[illegible]

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

1865

By Telegraph from 1865

To

Richmond Va April 27th, 1865

Dear Parents,

I have at last reached the goal. Arrived here Sunday, the 23d and have delayed writing to you until I received my mail, which I did yesterday. It was kept here until two days before I reached here when it was forwarded to Hd Qrs 24th A.C. & so I missed it. But I will tell you how I got here. I wrote you from Burkesville on the 20th that we expected to remain there several days but the very next day orders were received for the 24th Corps to march to Richmond by the easiest route. We (Critchet and I) obtained permission to go by Rail Road, & the next morning (22d) the troops broke camp at 5 A.M. but we left Burkesville by 8 A.M. reaching Petersburg at 1 P.M. Found we could not leave that city for Richmond until 7 A.M. 23d. We visited nearly every part of the city of Petersburg & found it much more demolished by our shells than we had imagined. Some houses were entirely destroyed whereas the buildings are [illegible] But what has got [illegible] here through them. We left Richmond by the Richmond & Petersburg R.R. at 9 A.M. reaching Manchester opposite Richmond at 11 o'clock. We enjoyed our ride very much. It was a fine day & the road is one of the best in the country. In passing along the "Bermuda front" we could see the signal observatory, "Butler's Monument" and the fortifications at Point of Rocks. I have seen these works many times before but they were from a different stand point, then I dreamed that I should see them from the rebel side. Manchester is now the terminus of the R.R., the rebs having burned all the bridges connecting that place with Richmond. An ambulance, by previous arrangement, met us at the cars and carried us to the Custom House, Genl. Ords Hd Qrs, Dept. Hd Qrs, and the main telegraph office are there. After seeing the boys, Mr. Emmick told me he wished me to go to "Rocketts" and work with Brunson for a few days and he would arrange for me to come to the Custom House to work. So here I am at "Rocketts". But what is "Rocketts"? It is the steamboat landing, and is the highest point on the James River that boats can reach, just opposite and across large rocks show their heads above water & from these the place takes its name. Here & near here are located the Depot Quartermaster, Provost Marshals Quarters

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

.....1865

By Telegraph from 1865

To ____ ____

Custom House Richmond Va
May 1st 1865.

Dear Parents.

My last to you was Apl 27th on the 28th I came up here, and here I am to remain for some time I think & hope. My hours of duty are from 5 P.M. to 1 A.M. which gives me from five to six hours sleep for I cannot sleep in the day time. There are three of us to work the twenty four hours eight hours each on duty then sixteen off. I had rather work the early part of the night than the latter for there is very little business doing from 1 A.M. to 9 A.M. and practice is just what I want to acquire. They have also elected me caterer for the mess that is they give me the funds and I do the marketing & purchasing so that the commissary don't cheat us [illegible]

There are two markets in the city, one of them very near our mess-room. They are very well supplied with fish, mostly shad, but the supply of vegetables is small yet, a few small parsnips, a few radishes, lettuce, horse radish, asparagus and small onions being the whole list. I saw a few bunches of pie-plant in market this morning but presume they were of hot-house production, although I did not inquire. Butter is selling at 50 cts. Lard 40. Shad 75 cts per pair, good size. Beef 24 cts per lb. Potatoes $2.00 per bushel. The latter are selling at the commissary, paying only $1.20 per bushel. I have been running to the express office every day to find that box containing butter but as yet unsuccessful. Am afraid it will be spoiled before I get it, it is over a month since it was sent. What were the directions upon it? The only notice I have had of its being sent was in Sarah's letter of Mch 26th. She says "Mother has been down today and had your butter sent off, a keg of 51 lbs at 25 cts per lb." You ought to have sent me the receipt by mail. I have telegraphed to City Point but it is not there. I sent you a box on the 29th by express containing some [illegible] wire and repairing tools, some sheets and [illegible]. The latter I bought early in the winter, and having

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

1865

By Telegraph from 1865

To

an operator, paying six dollars for it, a little sewing upon it would make a new coat of it. The work is easy for horses, I [illegible] the [illegible] for the [illegible]. The more I see of Richmond the better I like it, and shall not be at all sorry if they let me remain here a month or two. The Army of the Potomac is to march to Alexandria via Richmond and Fredericksburg, then Sherman's army is to follow it to the same place. I shall probably have an opportunity of seeing Frederick when he passes near here & I shall certainly do so if I can. The 24th Corps will remain here in all probability for a month or two perhaps until the balance of the army is mustered out of service, which is being done with some parts of it now. It is impossible for

But to tell anything about what time I shall be here. Operators will be required on the lines now connecting Richmond, Petersburg, Danville, Lynchburg &c with City Pt. Ft Monroe & Washington & with the army as it arrives around Alexandria. As the last of Sherman's comes along, military operators will be drawn in & the old southern operators take their places. They cannot cut down the expenses of our Dept as they can of most others because it will require the same force around Washington & Alexandria that it did then or very nearly the same.

I see by a telegraph paper that the United States and Western Union telegraph companies are about to consolidate the two lines, & they will probably have but one office in Elyria. & if the R.R. from Oberlin don't fall through there is some prospect of the office there paying a pretty good salary. If the R.R. Co build engine house &c there will be considerable R R business there will anyway for it will be a changing off place for the passengers from Sandusky, and the office will work two or more men. If they will give me the office & ticket agent or something of that kind I think I should like to work there. They now

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

1865

By Telegraph from.... 1865

To

are owing us over four months pay.
and will probably not pay until we
are all discharged. Well, we will have
something of a pile to start home on.
that's some consolation. I owe Woodard
a letter but shall not answer
his until he gets camped again
& I hope to see him before that
time. I'm sleepy. I shall be "off
duty" in half an hour, it is now 12 o'c
A. M. My time of duty has it's
benefits as well as its privations. I
can only go around town in the early
part of the day & have to remain
at home & afford my evenings there,
So you need not fear of my going to
theaters, hotels & other places of
resort in the evening. I attended
church yesterday for the first time
since I was home last Summer.
I enjoyed it very much & mean to attend
both church & Sabbath School regularly
while I remain here. No more tonight
write me as often as you can.
Love to all
your aff. Son Horace.

[p. 2 of letter of Apr. 27, 1865]

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U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

1865

By Telegraph from 1865

To. 2

of Water Transportation Office. It is in the finest part of the city & although "right in town" is not a mile from the Capitol & Custom House. We have very good quarters here but not as good as at Hd. Qrs. Office. I am to go up there tomorrow I suppose. I have been in very nearly all places of interest in the city & rather have seen them externally, Capitol, Custom House, Jeff. Davis' Residence, Alex. H. Stephens' do. Castle Thunder, Castle Lightning, Libby Prison, Spottswood Hotel, the [illegible] &c. Have not seen them as much as I wish to, in fact I have only taken a general view of all, or have [illegible] of none in particular. After I am stationed at the Custom House I shall be much nearer to all of them & can see more of them. I like the looks of Richmond much more than those of any other Southern city I have yet seen. It has many fine buildings

Both public and private as you see, very
few of the old fashioned sloping roofs, gable
windows, shingle-sided 'affairs' that are
seen in Alexandria, Norfolk, Petersburg &
Fredericksburg. I received a letter from
Woodard with the same budget of mail
which was waiting for me here.
He wrote you a few days before
but says "Please tell the girls of my
good fortune as I may not get time
to write to them before I go on the
raid" He had just received his commission
as Capt & Asst Adjt Genl. from Washington the
day he wrote me, ~~He signs himself~~
~~Capt. & A.A.A.G.~~ He is Asst Adjt. Genl
of 3d Brig. 1st Div. 15th A.C.
It had been so long since I had heard
from you (over a month) that the package
of letters was quite a feast to me.
There were four from Sarah, one from
you (Apl 10th) one from Eva Ward, one
from Woodard & some Democrats.
I will write you often & tell you all
about Richmond. One more tonight.
Direct, to me Mil. Sec. Dept Va. Com.
Custom House Richmond. I shall go there
tomorrow to remain.

With much love
Your Aff Son
Horace.

Richmond 141

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

1865.

By Telegraph from 1865.

To 9

good situation hereafter. I could remain here in Richmond if I chose to do so but I think both duty & my own interest call me away from this easy life. In the last two days I have been seeing several places of interest in this vicinity that I had not seen before. Yesterday I visited the Tredegar Iron Works, where the heavy guns of the confederacy were made; the Hollywood cemetery and President Jas Monroe's tomb; – and Belle Island. I enclose a list of the names of Ohio men buried there, (Belle Isle) whose graves were marked. You can have it published if you wish. Today I rode down to Fort Darling & visited that great stronghold. & indeed it was strong. I want to see Cold Harbor before I leave this vicinity & then I think I have seen about all there is to see. I took this officer's receipt to

the office and they tell me to have
Mr Bowen send a tracing letter.
If it left Elgin all right properly
way billed [illegible] he can tell when
& where it was turned over to the
Adams Express, Send his answer
here & I will show it to the
Adams Express Agt here & he
will find where the tub was sent
or where missed. One of the two
companies is responsible for the
butter & will have to pay for it.
Meanwhile the butter is gaining strength.
I shall not be here, but you send
me the letter & I will send it
back to some one here. Direct your
letter here until you hear from me
again I may want you to send me
my coat, light cold pants & rest
+ the one white shirt to me. if I
should stay south any length of time
Can't write any more tonight. Am too
sleepy. Will write you a few lines
again before I leave Richmond.
Love to all.

Yours Affly

Clarence

/1910

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] since I was sick I then was about 20 [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible]. I have [illegible] more [illegible] I have [illegible] attended to at [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] more [illegible]. There is some things [illegible] doubt [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] the acquaintance of a great many, and among the [illegible] [illegible] I am intimately acquainted with and I am more confident and would feel more safe [illegible] with any [illegible] in Belgium I intend to make [illegible] [illegible] visit though before I go back to [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] there [illegible] [illegible] the gospel and to all appearances they all give good attention, They are reading the [illegible] [illegible] as fast as they can [illegible] [illegible]

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I shall have to close this short letter for the present as it is getting late besides I will write you often [illegible] [illegible] of any thing happens I will write from here. Hoping to hear from you soon and that you will write let me [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] I remain as ever

Your affectionate Son

[illegible]

Head Quarters 35th Iowa Infantry
"Vicksburgh" July 4th 1863

My dear Father:

You see by my heading that we are in the celebrated City of Vicksburg the "Gibralter of America". The Garrison surrendered their whole forces and arms unconditional this forenoon at 10 A.M. to-day, their forces, sick and well consists of some 25.000 men, making in all a loss of about 43000 since we left Grand Gulf to the rebels. This afternoon I had my horse saddled and rode around their lines and into the City. their works were indeed impregnable and could not have been taken except with a terrible loss of life, in any other way then we did (Starvation) the rebels had come down to mule meat though before they surrendered.

Among the rebel prisoners I saw Virgil Elliott, George Mitchel's wife's brother, I had quite a talk with him, he is a thorough-bred rebel, and appears to be rather chop-fallen, but still talks considerable about Dixie folks he wishes to be remembered to his folks and tell them that he is well if he is a prisoner.

On Wednesday last the rebels showed a white flag or rather a flag of truce it came within a short distance of our lines, and a Staff officer of our Brigade and myself went out and received it but it amounted to nothing they only wanting to get a Woman, that claimed to be a british subject, outside of the lines. of course the wish was not granted.

This has been the most glorious 4th I have ever Known and one that will always be remembered by the "Army of the West." it will give us double cause to rejoice in after years. I only wished that the news might reach the north, on the same day but of course that is out of the question.

We are now under marching orders, (with 5 days rations) and may have to march at any time during the night, we go to thrash "Johnson" who has been hanging around our rear. so that with the bustle of getting ready, and wanting to write two more letters, I shall necessarily have to make this rather brief.

Give my love to all, and write me soon, hoping to ~~hear from~~ be as successful in my future company as I have been so far, I remain as usual.

Your affec Son

Sam. W. Snow

Head-Quarters Third Brigade. First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps,
Goldsboro N.C. March 5th 1865.

My Dear Parents

At last the Campaign has closed or rather stopped for a short time [illegible] Campaign will [illegible] [illegible] shall stay here just long enough to refit and move off for Richmond. it is said that we start on the 10th of April, but I think it will take till [illegible] at least to get supplies up [illegible]. When we start again it will be with 100.000 muskets in the hands of the best fighting army ever organized.

But the Campaign just closed we have marched 485 miles, subsisting ourselves off a poor country. Our Brigade has captured 146 prisoners, 43 cannon, 5000 stand of small arms and a large amount of Ordinance stores, we have built 11 miles of corduroy road, and destroyed

Finnie & Horace to-morrow. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain as ever

Your affec Son
Sam W. [illegible]

P.S. we commenced on the last 6 months of the Regts time to-day [illegible] the [illegible] it [illegible] have fought from [illegible] battle but here we are and [illegible] [illegible] but they are [illegible] a little better than then!

I never saw such a wild set of people in my life as our soldiers and a great many of the citizens, as seen in Columbia S.C. the morning our [illegible] captured it. Our men were moved up close to the bank of Broad River after dark the night before, and not allowed to build fires. Most of the men had no supper and all [illegible] in the morning without breakfast. We crossed the river in small boats, met and whipped a force of rebs superior to ours and entered the city about 9 A.M., then commenced the wildest excitement I ever saw, the Officers we released from prison, some 50 in number, some few citizens, and all the Negroes thronged the streets and gave the soldiers, who were already drunk from excitement, barrel upon barrel of liquor. Officers were flying around trying to stop it [illegible] with a [illegible]

Your affec Son

[illegible] W. [illegible]

detail destroyed some 20 barrels but with all our exertions most of our Brigade (which by this time had swelled by stragglers to the size of a Corps) got drunk & some men who never drank before in their lives drank that day.

Quiet was restored about 3 P.M. when Genl Sherman at the head of our Corps entered the City, but it was not till after dark that the worst came, The Prisoners that we had released had sworn vengeance on the City and commenced by firing the houses of some of the proud ones who had spit on them and as the wind was very high the principal part of City was burned. We had over 5000 men working all night trying to stop the flames but it was of no use

The next place of any note on our March was Cheraw on the great Pedee it was a town of considerable business containing a large amt of valuable stores & Cotton

Then came Fayetteville N.C. a city of some 8000 inhabitants situated on the Cape Fear River we destroyed a very large arsenal at this place. Here was the first that we heard from the North God's country as the boys call it. There is a great difference in the behavior of the men since we got into N.C., there being less pillaging & burning. The men seemed to have a spite against South Carolina and I dont know as I can blame them.

Goldsboro is a place about the same size as Fayetteville, but not as pretty. We had some considerable fighting to do to get here. Our Brigade lost in the two days fight on Mill Creek was 61.

I am very busy since I got in camp writing up back orders and doing work that has accumulated during the campaign, but am in hopes to catch up this week.

I have not received a letter from any one since I arrived here but am in hopes to get one in a day or two. Shall try and write to

Head Quarters Art'y Bde 10th A.C.
Near Washington D.C. May 27th 65

My Dear Parents

I have intended to write to you for the past weeke but somehow every time I would get started something would occur that I would have to stop. We had a very pleasant trip through to this point although we marched rather faster than was agreeable marching on an average 20 miles a day from Raleigh to Washington.

I had a very pleasant time with Horace at Richmond, he had been in the City long enough to get posted in all the sights and he had plenty of time to show them all to me. I met with a very sad accident the first day out of Richmond. My fine horse which I had been offered 300 dollars for died, I felt very bad about it for she was a perfect pet and I would not be able to get as good a one in place of it

The day we went into Camp at Alexandria, Our Div visited Mt. Vernon and the tomb of Washington it is the finest place I ever saw. We staid in Alexandria until the day of the Review when we moved to our present Camp.

The Review was the grandest sight ever witnessed either in this or any other country, it took about 7 hours each day for the Army to pass a given point every body acknowledged that our Army was composed of the best men and marched all together, better than the Army of the Potomac. Every body was there from all over the world, the people cheered and threw boquets &c but our boys never answered or looked either to the right or left but marched right along as if no one was present. I never saw Genl Sherman looking prouder in my life, and he had good cause for it, for his army has all stood by him to a man. The people around us are feeling ashamed that they said any thing against, for since they have come to know the truth of the matter they find he has done nothing out the way after all

We are all busy now preparing to muster out. but it is doubtful whether I will get mustered out or not it is very likely I shall be held for some months yet. If they will put me on some easy duty I shall be perfectly satisfied. I am going to endeavor however, to get permission to accompany my old Regt to Iowa, in which case I shall pay you a short visit.

There have a lot of papers just come in which need my attention and so will have to close, hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Your Affec Son

P.S. I saw Oscar Sargeant the day of the Review

We Sell
Buy them a
they hav

Puckett
FUQUA